Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXI, Issue No. 162 | MONDAY JULY 11, 2011 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

PSS to move out of Fund building next month. PAGE 6
NMI gets $63K for historic preservation. PAGE 9

Taxpayers pay for lawmakers' $400-$700 monthly car leases

» Other House, Senate members use own cars

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Taxpayers are funding many of their Saipan, Tinian, and Rota lawmakers' vehicle leases of $400 to $700 a month plus gas expenses, while a few members said they could survive using their own vehicles both for official and personal needs.

In separate interviews with 17 of 29 members of the Legislature, lawmakers gave different reasons for leasing and not leasing vehicles.

All of the 16 with monthly vehicle leases said they use their "operational" account for the lease.

See TAXPAYERS on Page 4

Ex-governor Babauta is GOP president

» 1,077 new, returning members accepted

Newly elected Republican Party president and former governor Juan N. Babauta, right, gestures as he addresses a general membership meeting on Friday night at the Garapan Central Park. Also in photo are, from left, newly elected national committeewoman Viola Alepuyo, treasurer Ramon Salas, second vice president Edward Deleon Guerrero, first vice president Rita Chong, secretary Richard Seman, and reelected national committeeman Roman "Bo" Palacios Jr. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former governor Juan N. Babauta is now the Republican Party of the NMI's president as a result of Friday night's election of officers at a general membership meeting dotted by tense discussions over the acceptance of 1,077 new and returning members, mostly from the Covenant Party.

Former Covenant Party members almost outnumbered GOP members during Friday night's meeting at the Garapan Central Park.

Babauta is not saying whether he will run again in the next delegate election.

"I am leaving everything open. Nothing is off the table when it comes to politics but tonight, I say to you and the general public that I am here to serve as chairman of the party. I'm in a supportive role and whoever wants to run for any

See BABAUTA on Page 4

Sisters' case touches parents' primal nerve

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Although they live on the second floor of an apartment building, Gina Jin Reyes, 28, used to let her 8-year-old son play in the parking lot. That changed when sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk disappeared seven weeks ago, seemingly into thin air.

With the sister's mysterious disappearance now entering its 7th week, Reyes had to change the rules for her son, mainly for security purposes. She no longer allows her son to play on the ground floor

See SISTERS on Page 4

Marching to a new drummer

Is the US losing its economic independence?

WASHINGTON—This year, as the nation celebrates Independence Day, the sputtering U.S. economy offers a stark reminder that today we're more dependent upon foreigners than ever before.

See FOCUS on Page 17

Countries holding U.S.debt

Top holders of U.S. treasury securities for April 2011, in billions

*Ecuador, Venezuela, Indonesia, Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Algeria, Gabon, Libya, Nigeria

** Bahamas, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Netherlands Antilles, Panama

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Source: U.S. Department of Treasury
Graphic: Judy Treible

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POLL RESULTS
Do you support a proposal to grant a CNMI-only resident status to alien parents of U.S. citizen children in the Commonwealth?

YES 88
NO 123
NO OPINION 7
Sunday, July 10, 2011

INSIDE

Weak Economy
The job market is defying history, with unemployment climbing for three months.

BUSINESS...Page 13

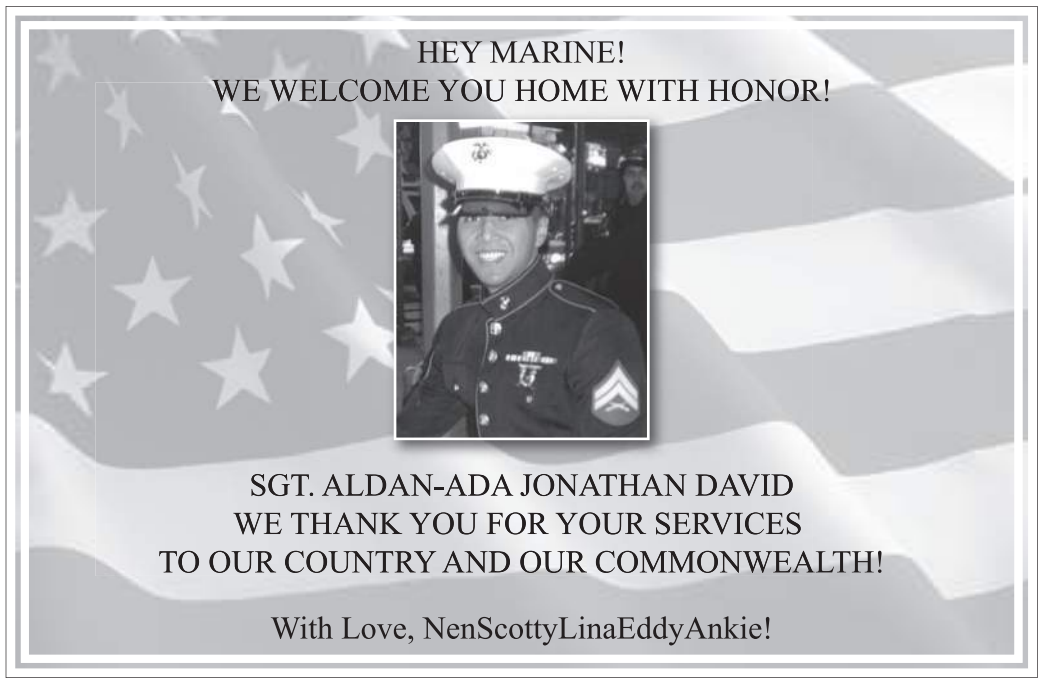
Newest Nation
South Sudan celebrates its first day as an independent nation Saturday.

WORLD...Page 16

Final Issue
Britain's News of the World signs off with a simple front page message.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

Local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Inos nixes QC fee hike; wants QC OK to remain with gov

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos said on Saturday it is unsound to raise the filing fees for qualifying certificates when the economy is struggling to attract investors, and that the approval and issuance authority over the tax incentive program should remain with the governor as the head of state.

The acting governor said this when he vetoed House Bill 17-58, Senate Draft 1, which seeks to reform the Qualifying Certificate Program.

The QC program grants tax breaks to investors to put up new investments in the CNMI, or assist existing investors to expand their operations.

"While I understand the Legislature's intent to improve the QC program, I urge the Legislature to revisit the proposed amendments by engaging in active discussions with the business community," Inos said in his veto message to House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota).

Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), main author of the bill, said yesterday he's a bit disappointed that his bill got vetoed when it is supposed to reform an outdated law to make it "conform to the needs of the times."

But Deleon Guerrero said he cannot fully comment on the issue until he sees the actual veto message. He said he expects to see the veto message today.

HB 17-58, SD1 identifies the chair of the Commonwealth Development Authority board of directors as the approving and issuing authority for QCs.

"QCs are contracts entered into by and between the CNMI government and the beneficiaries of the QC, which provide tax relief for qualified investments. As such, the approving and issuing authority should remain with the governor as the head of state. The CDA board chairperson does not have the authority to award tax relief to any individual or company," Inos said in his veto message.

The acting governor also disagreed with the bill's intent to raise QC fees, at a time when the CNMI is struggling to woo investors and to even maintain the current ones.

"This measure not only raises initial filing fees for many qualifying investment activities; it even requires annual fees in addition to monitoring fees. The annual and monitoring fee could be viewed as redundant charges for the same purpose," Inos added.

Under the bill, the QC application fee could go up by up to $4,500 in certain business types compared to Public Law 12-32.

The bill also imposes annual monitoring fees of $1,500 to $3,000, among other things.

Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), who is one of the lawmakers wanting the QC program to be reformed, earlier said the government will continue to lose some $15 million in annual revenue if the program is not reformed.

The Senate substitute version of the House bill increases and lowers the application fees for certain types of businesses.

Among the investors in the CNMI with approved qualifying certificates include Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort, Sandy Beach Homes and Saipan World Resort.

Judge allows widow to amend lawsuit for death of husband

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona has allowed the widow of a construction worker who was killed by a vehicle as he was crossing a road in As Lito to amend her lawsuit.

Manglona said that Mariel Falalimpa has established that new facts and persons have come to light whose presence would have a major effect on the outcome of the lawsuit.

The judge said that Falalimpa's proposed amendments were filed within the statute of limitations.

The judge said the interests of justice require that Falalimpa be afforded ample opportunity to seek redress under the law, and this requirement necessarily outweighs any delay in litigation that may occur as a result.

Mrs. Falalimpa sued Duane Quitugua Richards, Marvin Tydingco, and Melva Ann Ada. She filed the lawsuit on behalf of herself and as personal representative of her deceased husband. She asserted claims for negligence, wrongful death, and negligent infliction of emotional distress.

Joselito Baysauli Falalima was reportedly hit by car being driven by Richards as he was crossing Monsignor Martinez Road in As Lito on his way home on Oct. 24, 2009. The couple have two young children.

In September 2010, Manglona dismissed Mrs. Falalima's claim for negligent infliction of emotional distress and negligence.

Falalimpa, through counsel F. Matthew Smith, later filed a motion to amend her complaint in order to add an additional defendant and additional theories of liability arising out of the same facts as alleged in the original lawsuit.

Smith alleged that recent discovery has produced new evidence showing that another person also bears responsibility for the accident that killed Mr. Falalimpa.

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Court asked to stay $4.1M award to businessman

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General has asked the Superior Court to stay its order finding the CNMI government liable to businessman Joaquin M. Manglona until it has reviewed the OAG's opposition.

Assistant attorney general James T. Mitchell, representing the government, also asked the court to allow the government until July 15, 2011 to respond with its opposition.

Mitchell said that Manglona will not be prejudiced by a reasonable delay to allow the government to respond.

"While there is no guarantee as to what the outcome will be after the court considers the government's response, the court's decision on the merits could not be construed to be prejudicial. Nor could a reasonable delay caused by the government's filing a response to his motion be deemed prejudicial," he said.

Last month, associate judge David A. Wiseman ruled that the government is liable to pay Manglona $4.1 million for breaching a building lease in 1997. This amended his prior order that awarded Manglona $2,814,438.56. Wiseman added $1,316,481.22 in post-judgment interest as of Nov. 10, 2010. The total award is $4,130,919.78.

The judge made the arrangement after Manglona filed a motion, asking the court to reconsider its denial of post-judgment interest.

Wiseman heard the motion on June 9, 2011. Attorney Douglas F. Cushnie appeared for Manglona, but the government did not file any response to the motion nor appeared at the hearing.

In the government's motion to stay/vacate Wiseman's amended order, Mitchell said the government is not asking for a lengthy delay.

Given the 14-year history of the case, Mitchell said the additional amount of time the government is asking for will have a negligible impact on the case.

The government lawyer said the reason for the request is that he was not served with Manglona's motion or with the notice of hearing. Mitchell said it was discovered that LexisNexus had an incorrect e-mail address for counsel and the legal secretary was linked to his account.

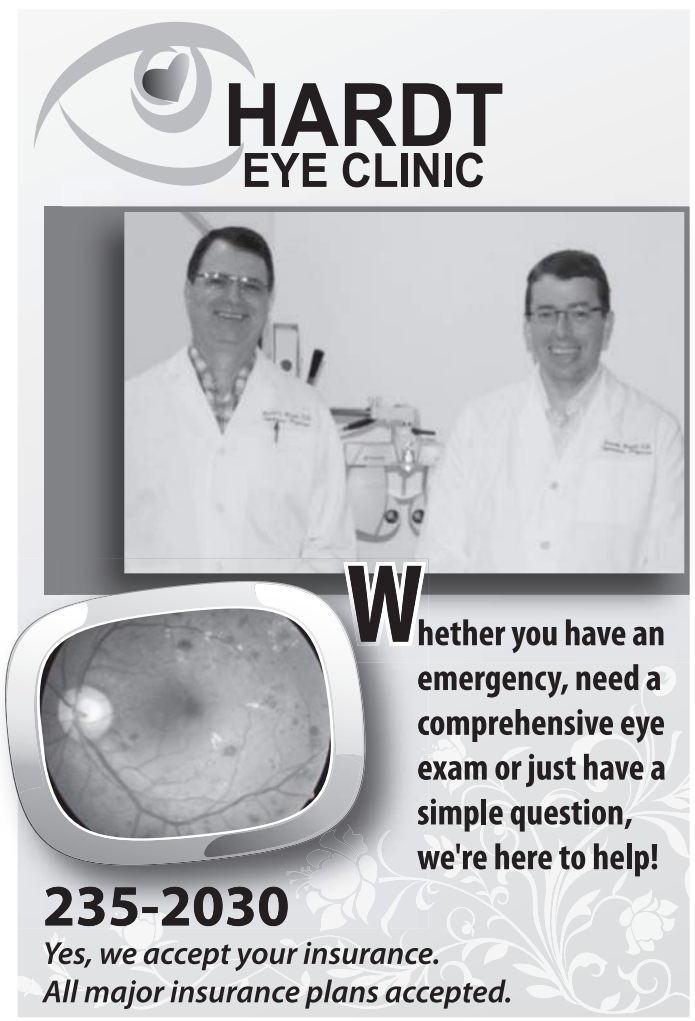
For that reason, Mitchell said, neither of them received service of the motion or notice of hearing.

He said it is still unclear why Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham did not receive such service.

As to the other factor, Mitchell said there is nothing to suggest that the lack of service to counsel was a result of bad faith. "The government simply wants a fair hearing on the merits," he said.

Mitchell said the court has only heard from Manglona on his motion to amend.

"The court needs to hear the government's side of the issue in order to make a fully informed decision," he added.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BABAUTA

From Page 1

public office, I'm going to be there to return the favor," he said.

Danny Aquino, a member of the Republican Party's executive committee, challenged the party's acceptance of 1,077 individuals, considering that the whole executive committee was not consulted nor made aware of the application forms until during the general membership meeting.

"The chairman can't unilaterally accept the 1,000-plus applications. … There are procedures. I don't object to anyone of you coming into the party but let's do it the right way," he said.

He said he does not want to lose any more Republican members especially with the 2012 elections just around the around, just because the party does not live by its rules.

Outgoing president Juan I. Tenorio, who did not want to seek re-election, said he received on Friday morning over 1,000 requests to join the Republican Party.

Some members, including former speaker Arnold Palacios who is now the director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, said the party should accept those who turned in their applications to become members. The crowd applauded.

Babauta said while he acknowledges Aquino's concerns, he accepted the applicants to become members of the Republican Party.

"All of you Covenant members who want to be Republicans, you went through the process. That process has been completed and it's official. All of you are now Republican Party members," he said, drawing applause from the audience.

Babauta's election as party president came a few days after Fitial hired him for a $1 contract to become the governor's special adviser to the United States Federal Regional Council.

Babauta left yesterday for San Francisco, California where he will be joining Fitial to attend this week's meeting of the Region 9 Federal Regional Council.

Former speaker Oscar Rasa, chairman of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's Blue Ribbon Committee whose end goal is to dissolve the Covenant Party and transition its members to the Republican Party, said the application forms he submitted on Friday comply with the Republican Party bylaws.

Rasa said there are still some 300 pending application forms that they hope to turn in soon.

New officers

When Tenorio opened the floor for the election of five board members, Babauta was the first one to be nominated.

Besides Babauta, the others who were elected as board members were DFW's Richard Seman, Ramon "Ray" Salas, Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero and Coastal Resources Management director Rita Chong.

When the five were elected, they met briefly to select among themselves the new officers.

After emerging from their meeting, Tenorio announced that Babauta was chosen president; Chong as first vice president, Deleon Guerrero as second vice president, Salas as treasurer, and Seman as secretary.

Their terms took effect immediately.

The members also re-elected Roman "Bo" Palacios Jr. as national committeeman, and elected Viola Alepuyo as national committee woman. Alepuyo is a Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission board member and Retirement Fund counsel.

Palacios clarified that the new national committeeman and committeewoman's term won't start until September 2012.

He said technically, MaryLou Ada is still the national committeewoman.

Palacios said he will again work with other party officials to bring to the CNMI the new Republican National Committee chair, Reince Priebus.

In 2010, Palacios and Tenorio were able to bring to the CNMI then RNC chair Michael Steele.

Palacios said that Priebus had said he will support all the U.S. territories, not just the CNMI.

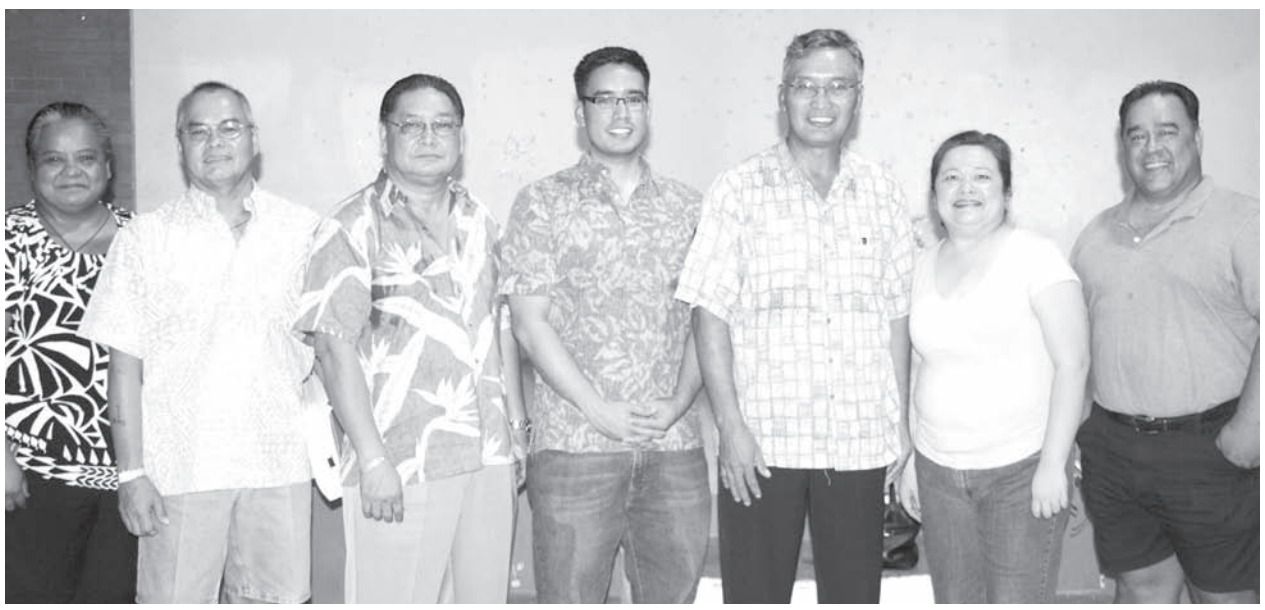
"It's important to bring the chairman over just to see how the territories are because we're completely different than a state. We're smaller but in any other respect we're more difficult to manage," he said, referring to the diversity of opinion and culture.

During Friday's meeting, Tenorio thanked party members for working with him during his two-year term and reiterated that he will no longer be active in politics.

Among the former Covenant Party members who were at the Republican Party general membership meeting were Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao, Public Lands Secretary Oscar Babauta, Customs director Jesus Mafnas, Marianas Public Land Trust chair Alvaro Santos, and Zoning Board chair Diego Blanco.

Only a few elected Republicans showed up at the meeting.

Babauta's former opponent in the delegate election, former House floor leader Joseph Camacho who was Fitial's candidate in 2009, was also at the meeting.



Former governor Juan N. Babauta, third from right, leads the new set of officers for the Republican Party of the NMI during an election on Friday night at the Garapan Central Park. In photo are, from left, newly elected national committeewoman Viola Alepuyo, treasurer Ramon Salas, second vice president Edward Deleon Guerrero, reelected national committeeman Roman "Bo" Palacios Jr., Babauta, first vice president Rita Chong and secretary Richard Seman. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

SISTERS

From Page 1

unless she and other parents are there to watch them.

"If my son goes too far [from the house], I'm mad at him," she said.

Her son and his 2-year-old brother already know that they should not talk or go with strangers but, according to Reyes, because of what happened to the Luhk sisters she had to remind her sons again about the rule.

Ella Sanchez said that even her 8-year-old daughter is very much aware about what had happened to 10-year-old Faloma and 9-year-old Maleina Luhk and understands why she is no longer allowed to ride her bicycle and walk alone outside the house.

The Luhk sisters' case has touched a primal nerve among parents and news about their disappearance and the resulting investigation has gripped a community that has never seen the like before. Conjectures and speculations abound, fueled by the persistent lack of leads and information on what had happened to the girls.

Reyes said she has been monitoring the media and friends whether the sisters have been found. "We're always curious about what happened to the girls," she said.

If the girls indeed went missing as they were waiting for a school bus, Reyes said she is sure the sisters knew the person who took them. "They're not 3 years old that when you give them candy, they would go," she said.

Sanchez has also been regularly monitoring the news about the girls. Just like many others on island, she has also received many false rumors that the girls have already been found. The girls' disappearance, she said, has been among the regular topics at their friends' gathering.

For Joel, 42, the girls' disappearance has had a big effect on him and his wife as they have three young children. He said it is scary because the motive behind the abduction is still unknown. He believes the person behind the abduction is probably a drug addict who has knowledge in law enforcement.

"Even the FBI has no lead," he pointed out.

The case, he said, has been a regular topic at work and even during drinking session with friends.

Although he is a Chinese national, Gunbe Wu, 24, said he is worried for the Luhk sisters as well as the safety of Saipan, his home for two years now.

"To be honest I consider Saipan my second home," said the young businessman. Wu has been regularly reading the newspapers for any developments on the search for the girls. Wu believes that something had already happened to the girls and that a possible motive could be revenge.

Since his four children are based in Guam, Billy Dela Cruz, 22, gas station cashier, has become very strict with his many nephews and nieces on island.

"Whenever my nephews and nieces are going somewhere, I would ask them many questions like where they are going and who's with them," he said.

Just like many others, Dela Cruz said he has received far too many false rumors that the girls have been found "here and there." He criticized these people for "just playing around" and believes the girls are still alive.

He said the Luhk sisters' case is always among the top discussions whenever he drinks with friends and relatives.

Elbert Quitugua, the grandfather of the girls, said he and the family are still appealing to the public for information and praying for the safe return of the children.

TAXPAYERS

From Page 1

The vehicles leased include sports utility vehicles, sedans, or pickup trucks.

Most said their office personnel and community workers also use the leased vehicles to do community services like cleanups and delivering chairs and tents.

Those who lease vehicles include Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan), Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), Rep. Joseph Guerrero (R-Saipan), floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Saipan), and Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian).

Ray Palacios said his office pays $400 or $500 a month for the lease of a Ford Fusion, a sedan.

"I lend the leased car to my staff to do community work. It's not only me using it," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Camacho said he pays a monthly lease of $500 for a Nissan Frontier, a truck. He said he and his office staff use the vehicle for official functions.

"If I forego the lease, it will hamper my community operations. It was something I considered but it would affect my services to the community," he said.

Cabrera said his office leases a Ford Ranger, a truck, for $500 a month. He said his community worker or staff use the truck for community services.

"I use my personal car for everything, and my staff use the leased vehicle. If lawmakers turn in the leased vehicles, how can their offices perform their responsibilities to the community?" he added.

San Nicolas, for his part, said he leases a car on Saipan—a Nissan Sentra for $550 a month.

"I pay for my own gas," the Tinian senator said, adding that without a leased vehicle, he won't be able to go from one place to another.

Hofschneider leases a Nissan Altima for $500 a month.

Cruz, also a senator from Tinian, said he leases a vehicle but did not want to disclose the make and model, and the amount.

Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero said he pays $600 a month for a Nissan Rogue. He said while he could forego a vehicle lease, this would mean his office staff won't be able to do community work.

Just like others, he said his expenses for the vehicle lease is within his budget.

Tenorio said he leases a Ford Fusion for $400 a month, while Benavente, a Ford SUV for $500 a month.

Tebuteb leases a Nissan truck for $700 a month. He said his office staff uses the leased vehicle for community work.

Other lawmakers question those with vehicle leases but do not have community workers.

No leases

At least six lawmakers said they do not have taxpayer-paid government leases. They are Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian), Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota).

"In my entire life at the Legislature, I only leased for three months during the 16th Legislature," Rep. Stanley Torres said. He said he also uses his personal vehicle for official functions.

Torres, who missed only two of 17 Legislatures, said when the monthly lease of $900 at the time proved to be costly, he decided to return the vehicle and used the money instead to hire a community worker.

He said while he does not have a problem with many of his colleagues leasing vehicles, he hopes that these leased vehicles should not be heavily tinted in violation of the law.

Villagomez, a freshman lawmaker, said his office could perform without leasing a vehicle. But he said the tradeoff is that they use a fleet card for gas expenses.

Sen. Ralph Torres said he uses his car for personal and government functions. He said he also donates gas to the Neighborhood Watch, and to other groups taking part in environmental cleanups.

Conner, for his part, said he does not lease a vehicle while he's on Saipan. He also does not lease a car on Tinian, he said.

"I know how to budget," he said.

The 12 other lawmakers did not want to be interviewed about car leases, did not want to return calls, or could not be reached for interviews.

They included Rep. Rafael Demapan (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan), Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), and Sen. Luis Crisostimo (D-Saipan).

Hart exempted from NMC austerity measures

Dr. Sharon Hart, who will lead the Northern Marianas College in the next two years, will receive a full $80,000 annual salary and benefits package despite the newly enforced austerity measures at the college.

Board of Regents chair Juan Lizama affirmed this Friday, saying the new president is exempted from the austerity measures.

This Friday, all of NMC's employees will join other government personnel in observing "austerity Fridays"—a one-day government shutdown—as a result of budget constraints and declining government revenues. This translates to an eight-hour reduction in employee's work hours, from 80 hours biweekly to 72 hours biweekly. The 10-percent salary cut will take effect July 15 until the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30.

NMC employs about 200 personnel, including instructors, non-instructional faculty, staff and administrators.

According to Hart, the financial situation being experienced in the CNMI, and the college in particular, is not unique. She pointed out that many other universities and colleges are experiencing the same problem. However, she vowed to improve the college's financial resources by tapping other funding sources such as federal grants.

NMC has two funding sources for its personnel and operation: local appropriation from the government and the tuition and fees it collects from enrollees.

NMC was budgeted for $4.4 million in fiscal year 2011. This was cut to $4.1 million and, effective April 1, its projected monthly allotment for personnel cost and operation was $315,593. Based on the adjusted allocation, NMC only has $1.8 million left until the end of the fiscal year in September.

Long journey

After Friday's press briefing, board chair Juan Lizama expressed relief that a new president is now in place, following the "long journey" they took to find a qualified chief executive officer for the college.

He lauded the hard work of interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera, who went back to being the director of the Adult Basic Education program last Monday.

Lizama is confident that, with Hart's expertise and impressive experience, the college will soon be moving forward to reaffirm its full accreditation with the Accrediting Commission on Community and Junior Colleges.

He vowed to work collaboratively with the new president.

Hart, during the press briefing, vowed to move NMC out of severe accreditation status in the first year of her presidency.

She also vowed to practice an "open-door" policy when it comes to information that needs to be disseminated to the community.

Both Hart and Lizama assured that "accurate and appropriate" information will be disclosed to the media and the public.

But they appealed for understanding that there are certain information, especially relating to accreditation issues, that cannot be disseminated, pursuant to the confidentiality rule of the accrediting commission. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

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PSS to move out of Fund building next month

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System has decided to move its central offices to a system-owned building by next month.

Christopher Timmons, the Retirement Fund's legal counsel, told the board Friday that PSS has already informed the agency about its decision to move to a new location soon.

Saipan Tribune learned that PSS' central offices would be temporarily housed in the vacant buildings of Marianas High School.

PSS leases both the second and third floors of the Retirement Building on Capital Hills for its central offices and the Board of Education. It pays about $20,000 in building lease and about $10,000 in utility consumption each month.

Both the Fund and the PSS recently issued requests for proposals, with the Fund soliciting new tenants for its building and PSS announcing that it is seeking affordable new spaces for its offices.

The Fund submitted a bid to PSS with the same terms and condition it earlier offered the system. These include a reduced lease, provided PSS will settle outstanding lease payments and utility billings and making a three-month deposit. The Fund also wants either a separate meter for PSS power or a separate deposit for its utility payments.

The board of trustees disclosed Friday that PSS countered the Fund's bid, saying it wants a lower lease rate without conditions.

A meeting last week between PSS officials and Fund representatives fell through, resulting in PSS deciding to move out of the building.

The board earlier disclosed that PSS has an outstanding obligation of over $300,000 for its building rent and power consumption. On Friday, the board was informed that that PSS paid a "substantial" amount to settle this debt. PSS, it was reported, now only owes the Fund building rent for June, July, and August.

The PSS lease expired on April 30. It secured a short-term extension at an increased rate of $1.60 per square meter, a slight increase over the previous rate of $1.33 per square meter.

PSS had asked the board to allow it to pay the same rate during the extension period. The board is considering giving PSS a rebate once all obligations are fulfilled after August.

Man who threatened family members gets 67-day term

A man accused of threatening to hit family members with a screwdriver and metal pipe after being sleepless for a few days due to illegal drugs use pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 67 days in prison.

Antonio Hocog Indalecio, 28, pleaded guilty to three counts of assault (domestic violence) as part of a plea deal.

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman, in a written order issued last week, sentenced Indalecio to 18 months in prison, all suspended except 67 days, with credit for the 67 days he had already served in jail. This means Indalecio will no longer serve further jail time.

"After considering the facts of this case, the court was reluctant to accept the plea agreement. However, both parties presented mitigating circumstances and their recommendations which included the fact that defendant has had some problems which require medical and counseling and perhaps other treatment," Wiseman said.

The crimes committed in the case, he said, did not result in any injury or physical contact toward the victim, but were mere threats.

Wiseman said the victim and his family have expressed a commitment to help Indalecio get treatment.

"Although defendant's mental or physical stability is not the court's primary concern, and is first concerned with the safety of the public, the court believes that the proposed treatment and the family's commitment in helping defendant may result in eliminating or mitigating any harm that defendant may cause to others," the judge said.

Indalecio was placed on probation for three years and required to pay a $1,000 fine, $25 court assessment fee, and a probation fee.

As part of probationary conditions, Indalecio was ordered to write a letter of apology to three victims, and write a two-page paper detailing how the use of alcohol and other drugs have affected his life. He is also barred from possessing or consuming alcohol or drugs during his probation.

He is also required to submit to anger management and alcohol/substance abuse counseling at the Community Guidance Center.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Indalecio with three counts of assault with a dangerous weapon (domestic violence), and three counts of disturbing the peace (domestic violence). As part of the plea deal, the other charges were dropped.

Detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that a caller had told police on April 16, 2011, that her nephew, Indalecio, was threatening to hit her family members with a screwdriver and a metal pipe. The caller stated that Indalecio was probably on drugs because he could not sleep for four days already. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

10-day ultimatum for contractor of non-working pension software

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund's board of trustees deferred any action on the long overdue pension software last Friday after it gave its contractor, Express Electronics Ltd., a new 10-day ultimatum.

The project has been on the board's agenda in the last several months. Because of deficiencies in the software, the agency hired a program analyst, R &R Associates, to evaluate the project and get a recommendation whether to keep it or cut its losses and scrap it entirely.

Last Thursday, Express Electronics Ltd. owner Gary Sword and Fund representatives met, during which a detailed report of numerous deficiencies was discussed and presented to the contractor.

The Fund described the meeting as "productive" after Sword acknowledged that there are actions that need to be done for the project. However, due to the number of deficiencies noted, Sword did not made any immediate commitment and asked that the report be reviewed by his programmers.

It was learned that Sword asked for 10 days, or until July 17, to return to the board with an implementation plan.

The pension software project cost $449,000 and was signed in 2008. The Fund has already paid $402,340 or 89.4 percent of the overall project cost for the still non-functioning software designed by Sword's company.

The Fund earlier disclosed that because there is still $47,400 remaining for the project, the board is in favor of having the contractor fix the deficiencies within the budget.

Based on the terms and conditions of the contract, the product was expected to be completed in 2009. However, this was not realized, resulting in a delay of more than two years now. In the single audit performed for the Fund in 2009, the pension software system was among the serious findings noted by auditors. Violations of the contract were noted in both parties.

Last Friday, the Fund also assured that the agency is working on providing all requested documents by Felipe Atalig, who filed an Open Government Act requesting several Fund contracts, including that of Express Electronics Ltd. and related records of the contract.

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Fund's unfunded liability hits $911M

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As of April 30 this year, the NMI Retirement Fund's accrued unfunded liability stood at an estimated $911.1 million, which means that if the program is terminated now, it will not have enough funds to pay its obligation to members

Esther Ada, the Fund's deputy administrator, told the board during Friday's meeting that for every dollar that the Fund owes beneficiaries, only about 36 percent is funded and the rest is unfunded.

Fund officials earlier said that for the Fund to be fully funded until 2045, it needs about $860 million in its investment portfolio.

Preliminary records on Friday indicate that the Fund's investments had a market value of only $311 million as of June 30, 2011. This is a significant drop from April's estimated assets of $329 million but is a slight improvement over the $305 million posted in May.

The trustees attribute the decline in the value of its assets to the volatile market and the continuous drawdown from the investment fund. They said that over $6 million was drawn down in May to pay for pension benefits, while the rest of the losses was due to the volatile market.

According to Ada, the Fund's drawdown as of June 2 amounted to $37.4 million.

For fiscal year 2011, the board of trustees capped total drawdowns at $54.2 million. The Fund still has $15.8 million in authorized drawdown for the rest of the fiscal year.

Of the estimated $311 million assets, the estimated monthly return was a negative -1.36 percent.

The fiscal year to date return on investment as of June 30 was 13.2 percent while for calendar year to date, return on investment was at 5.36 percent.

The Fund's net assets are invested in stock and money market fund, government bonds, corporate bonds, common stocks, and hedge fund. It has also local investments that include the Member Home Loan Program, investment in the Group Health Life Insurance, the judicial building loan, and the Commonwealth Government Employee Credit Union.

Saipan Tribune learned that in 2007, the Fund's accrued unfunded liability was over $360 million, mainly due to the government's failure to remit contributions to the pension system and stock market losses.

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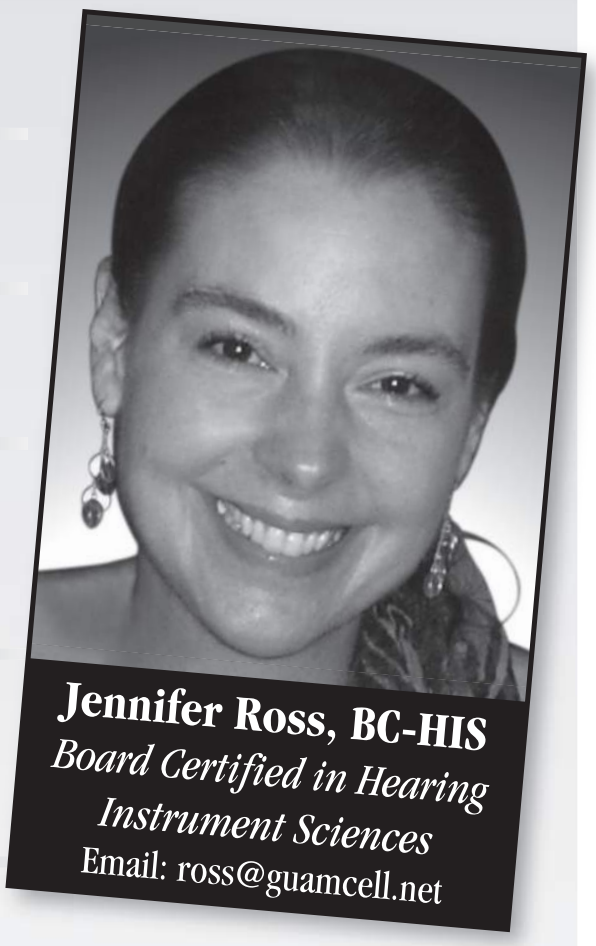

Jennifer Ross, BC-HIS
Board Certified in Hearing Instrument Sciences
Email: ross@guamcell.net

Jennifer Ross will be at:
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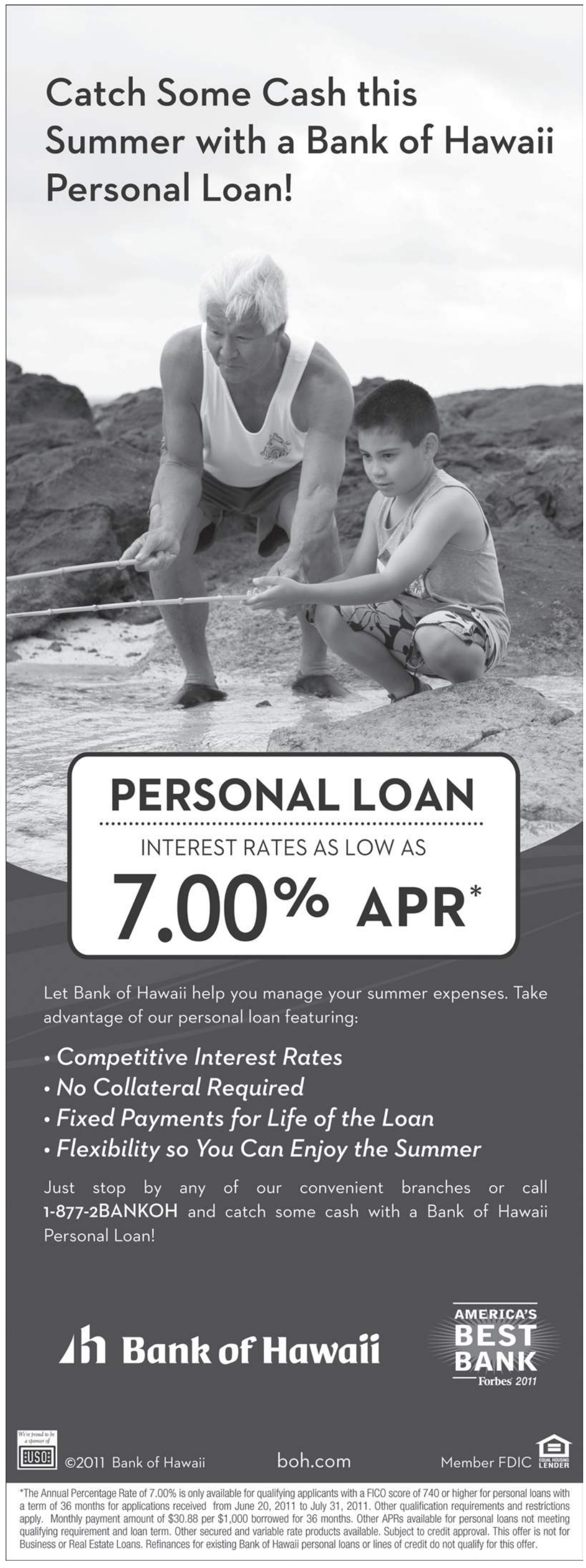
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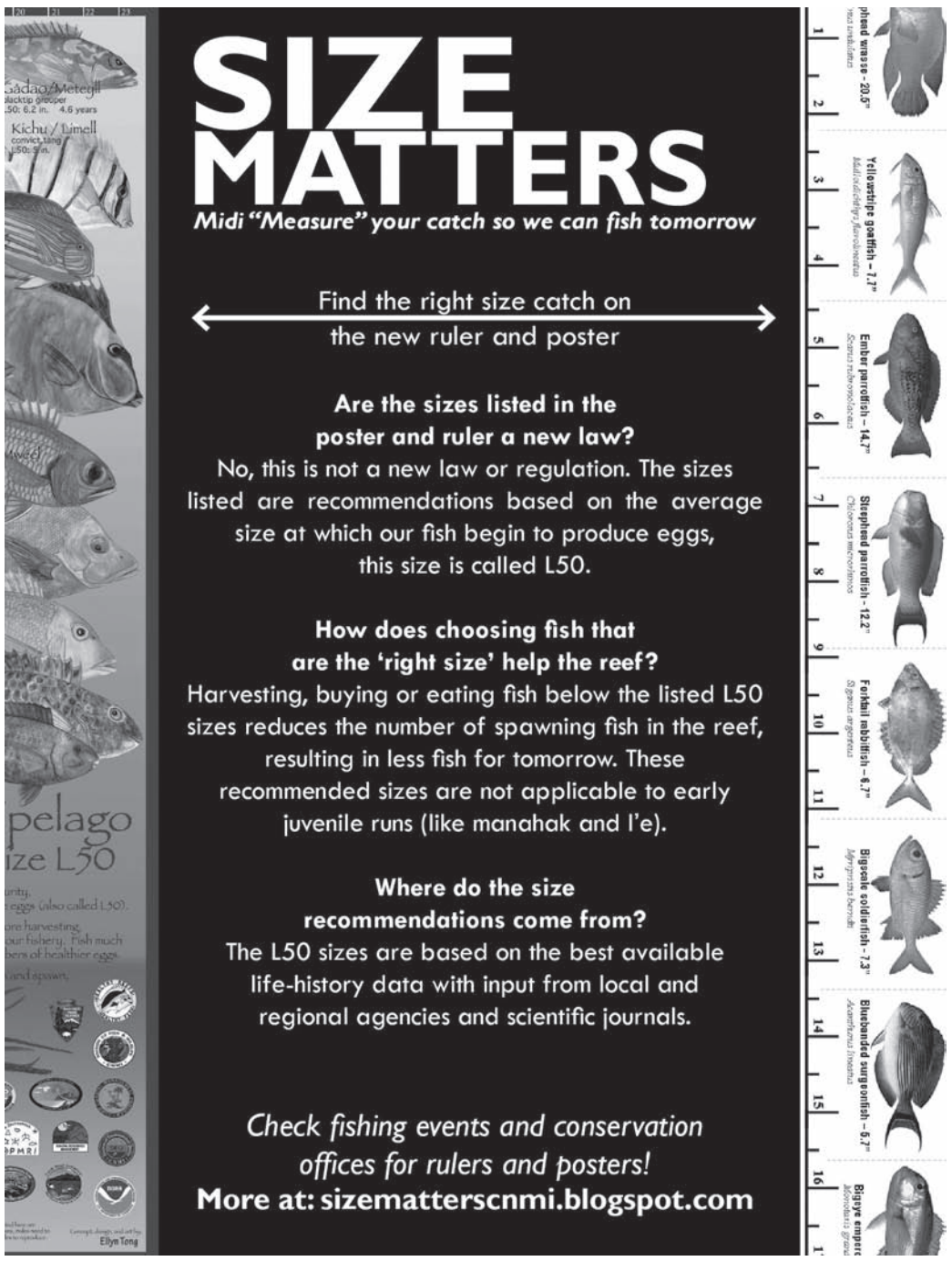
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Ex-Palms staff told to explain lack of action in her lawsuit

The federal court has ordered a former employee of the Palms Resort Saipan to explain why the court should not dismiss for lack of prosecution her discrimination lawsuit against the owner of Palms Resort Saipan.

U.S. District Court for the NMI judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood noted that Jane Quitugua's case has been pending for more than six months without any action taken by the parties during that period.

"If a proceeding has been pending for more than six months without any action taken by the parties during that period…the court may dismiss the proceeding for lack of prosecution," said Tydingco-Gatewood.

Quitugua has until July 13, 2011 to respond in writing.

Quitugua sued Micronesian Resort, Inc., owner of Palms Resort Saipan in May 2010, accusing it of "terminating her employment in an unlawful, discriminatory manner." According to her counsel, Stephen C. Woodruff, Quitugua was removed without advance notice, warning, or explanation.

Quitugua began working for the hotel as a front office supervisor in 1998 and was later promoted to senior assistant front office manager in 2007—a position she held until her termination on Jan. 6, 2009.

Palms Resort had asserted that Quitugua's termination was simply necessitated by business restructuring. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-IFB-11-043
CHALAN KANOA SEWERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT NO. 1

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the rehabilitation and upgrade of Sewer Lift Stations and installation of Force-Main in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general of the replacement of asbestos cement pipe (ACP) sewerline in two areas of Chalan Kanoa. The first project is to replace and re-locate a section of existing 6 inch ACP sewerline which has collapsed along Texas Road in the vicinity of the Chalan Kanoa cemetery, with 584 linear feet (LF) of 8-inch PVC sewerline and 3 new concrete manholes. The second project is the replacement of 160 LF of existing 6 inch ACP sewerline, between two existing manholes, located on Brigida Street in front of the on-going Sandy Beach Homes project. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **90 calendar** days from date of award of contract.

The Bid Package and Scope-of-Work may be picked-up, upon receipt of a deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, in the amount of $ 100.00 (non-refundable) for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site-Visit, will be held on **June 30, 2011 at 9:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-11-043, Chalan Kanoa Sewerline Replacement Project No. 1"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 14, 2011**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 30 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code. Please refer to other bidding requirements described in Document 00200 - Instructions to Bidders.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 05, 2011** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - msablan@cucgov.net with a copy to Mr. Brian Bearden, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email brian_bearden@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant - mika_muna@cucgov.net.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Mount Carmel rectory robbery

Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's assistance for information on a burglary and theft incident that occurred at the Mount Carmel Rectory, Chalan Kanoa.

On Friday, July 1, 2011, around 10am, a burglary and theft complaint was filed with the police. It was learned that an Olympus camera was stolen from the second floor of the church diocese. It was located in one of the offices on the second floor.

The point of entry was possibly through an office door on the second floor. The door jamb was damaged, allowing the suspect(s) to gain entry. No other items were reported missing or stolen. The estimated value of the stolen camera is over $200.

DPS and Crime Stoppers are seeking help from the public. Contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.com. Crime stoppers pays up to $1,000.00 for any information leading to an arrest. ***(Crime Stoppers)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 11, 2000

NMC may offer 4-year degree courses

The Northern Marianas College has expressed optimism that its School of Education would be able to offer four-year baccalaureate degrees after the Western Association of Schools and Colleges completes its accreditation of CNMI's center for higher education in October. NMC Development and Alumni Relations Director Tony V. Deleon Guerrero said the college is currently gearing up for WASC's scheduled visit three months from now. "We are focusing on our School of Education. If it gets accredited, we will now be ready to issue four-year Education degrees," he said. The WASC team last visited the college in 1996 during which NMC was able to gain a six-year accreditation.

Govt, House meet to discuss change in CUC billing system

Responding to the governor's clamor, the House Ways and Means Committee is looking into his proposal to change the current government utilities payment system in an effort to encourage departments and agencies to cut energy costs. Committee chair Rep. Antonio M. Camacho has asked the Department of Finance for a breakdown of utilities expenses for the executive branch, Legislature and the judiciary, to begin mapping out the much-needed revamp. This will be the major change to the FY 2001 budget proposal handed in by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio last April to the lawmakers for their approval, which is now the subject of a series of committee hearings in the lower house.

July 11, 2001

$303K earmarked for several projects

After much wrangling over allocations, the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation passed a bill yesterday appropriating $303,957 to fund several projects. The money, to be sourced from the fees collected by Saipan Local Law 11-2, will principally go toward improvement projects in several schools in the district and to buy equipment for the Northern Islands, such as seismographic equipment for the Emergency Management Office and boats. However, with so many projects and so little money to go by, the lawmakers were faced with a dilemma of how to divide the meager resources at hand, forcing them to readjust the original allocations set forth in House Local Bill 12-40.

Students say NMC offers good education

Northern Marianas College students have shown growing confidence on NMC's position as an effective educational institution, a locally-commissioned survey disclosed. One of NMC's campus publications, Advising and Retention (July 15, 2001 issue), reported that students rate the NMC faculty as knowledgeable, available and approachable. The same survey also revealed that most of the students see the need to improve the teachers' instructional methods. Respondents to the NMC-conducted survey said advisors and counselors communicate clearly and are easily accessible.

July 11, 2002

BOE approves $1.6-M for Head Start

The State Board of Education yesterday stamped its approval to a grant application that's targeted to infuse $1.6 million in federal assistance funds to the Public School System Head Start Program, which offers comprehensive child development services to three- to five-year-olds from income-eligible families. Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos said the assistance will ensure the delivery of quality service in the area of Child Development and Health, Family and Community Partnerships and most importantly, the Program Design and Management of Head Start. The grant application has already been transmitted to the Department of Health and Human Services in San Francisco for processing.

Fund's board now down to four

And then there were four. The terms of two board of trustees members of the NMI Retirement Fund expired Tuesday, leaving just four of seven members sitting on the board. And while that still constitutes a quorum, another term expiration on July 31 would further cut down the number to three, which is not a quorum. Unless Gov. Juan N. Babauta acts soon to reappoint those members with expired terms or replace them with new appointees, the Fund's board could be paralyzed and prevented from acting on several important policy decisions and projects. Fund legal counsel Kathleen Troy-Rucker said the terms of board chair Vicente C. Camacho and member David Hokin expired last July 9, while the term of member Rosita Santos will end on July 31.

NMI gets $63K share of $26.7M grant for historic preservation

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The CNMI has been awarded a $63,829 grant for historic preservation, part of a $26.7 million grant package from the Historic Preservation Fund announced by Secretary Ken Salazar Friday.

The $26.7 million grants will go to the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. territories, and three independent Pacific island nations. The grants will enable the states to preserve and protect the nation's historic sites without expending tax dollars.

"These grants will enable citizens of every state and territory to keep alive their heritage as a vital part of the American experience," Secretary Salazar said. "The grants are not only an investment in the story of America, but will also drive tourism and strengthen local economies."

Besides the CNMI, other U.S. territories also get a share in the funds: Guam, $62,154; U.S. Virgin Islands, $68,030; American Samoa, $49,543; and Puerto Rico, $293,500. The three Pacific island nations are FSM, $234,153; Palau, $135,701; and Marshall Islands, $135,701.

The Historic Preservation Fund is supported by revenue from federal oil leases on the Outer Continental Shelf. The National Park Service administers the fund on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior and uses the majority of appropriated funds to distribute matching grants to State and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers.

"Throughout the country, HPF grants and other federal historic preservation programs help sustain and revitalize communities," National Park Service director Jon Jarvis said. "Historic preservation promotes heritage tourism and can transform under-utilized and often-vacant historic buildings into revenue-generators for local economies. The National Park Service is honored to be invited into so many communities and is proud to assist in saving and sharing history."

States officials use the grants to fund preservation projects, such as survey and inventory, National Register nominations, preservation education, architectural planning, historic structure reports, community preservation plans, and bricks-and-mortar repair to buildings.

Ten percent of each state's allocation must be sub-granted to Certified Local Governments—city and county governments certified by the National Park Service and the state as having made a local commitment to historic preservation. These funds are spent on local projects, with selection decisions made at the state level. ***(DOI)***

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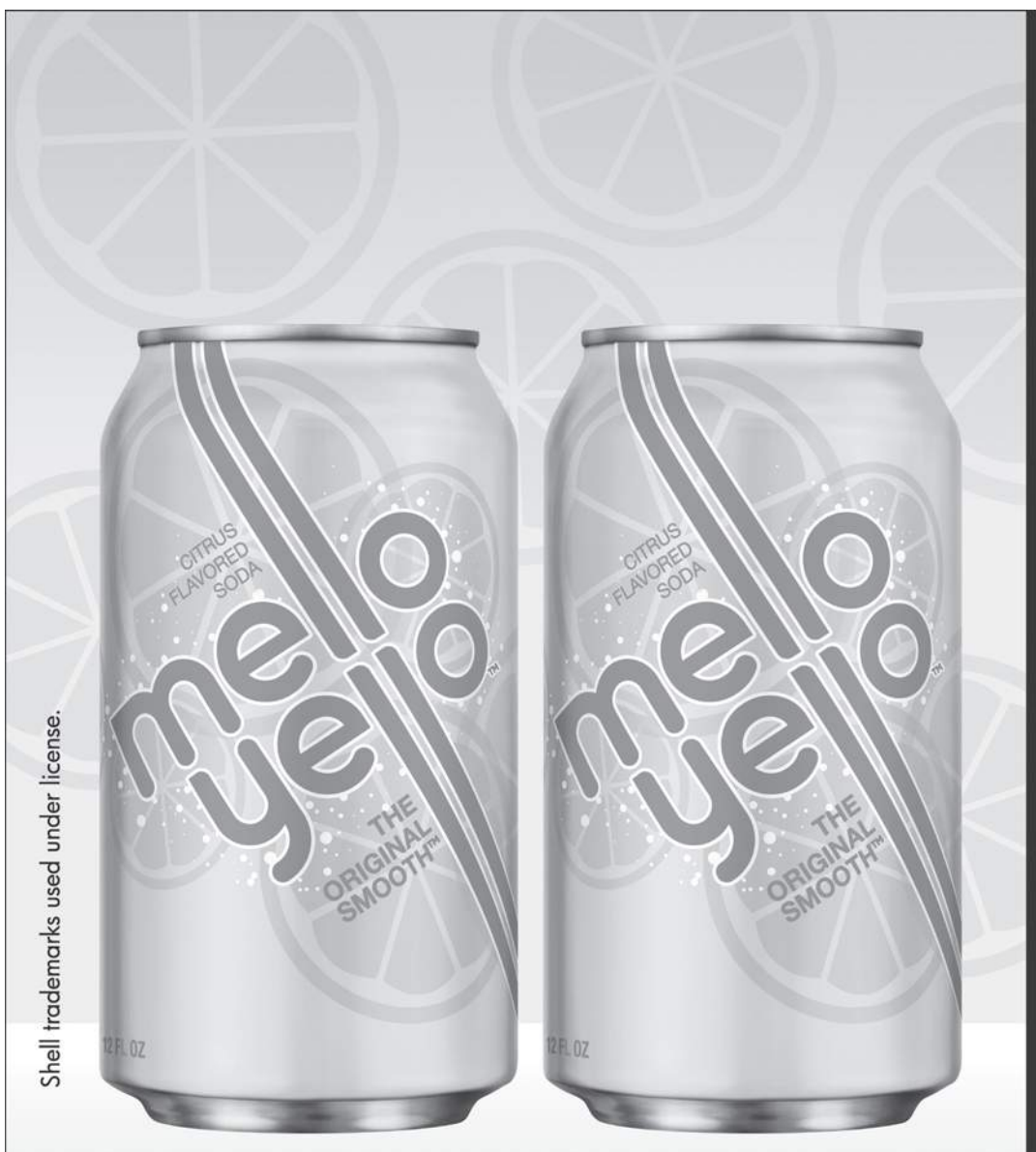

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXI, Issue No. 162

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
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EDITORIAL

Gobsmacked!

(c) 2011, Chicago Tribune

Even if you've never heard the word, you know exactly what it means.

A Westminster University professor, reacting to the news that Britain's largest Sunday paper had been felled by scandal, pronounced himself "gobsmacked." The word combines the northern English/Scottish slang gob (mouth) with the verb smack to describe a state of astonishment akin to being hit in the face.

Communications prof Steven Barnett was talking about media magnate Rupert Murdoch's decision to close the 2.6 million circulation *News of the World* over spiraling allegations that it had published stories obtained by hacking the private voice-mail accounts of thousands of people.

"Talk about a nuclear action," the professor told Reuters. And yes, killing a 168-year-old newspaper over journalistic transgressions is a dramatic gesture. But the transgressions themselves were gobsmacking, even in Britain's free-wheeling tabloid news culture.

News items about Prince William's knee injury or Prince Harry's visit to a strip joint are the sort of thing readers love about the *News of the World*'s sex-and-celebrity driven coverage. But Scotland Yard got involved in 2005 after the royal family became suspicious that the princes' voice mails had been hacked. In 2007, a reporter and a private investigator hired by the paper went to jail for intercepting royal staffers' messages.

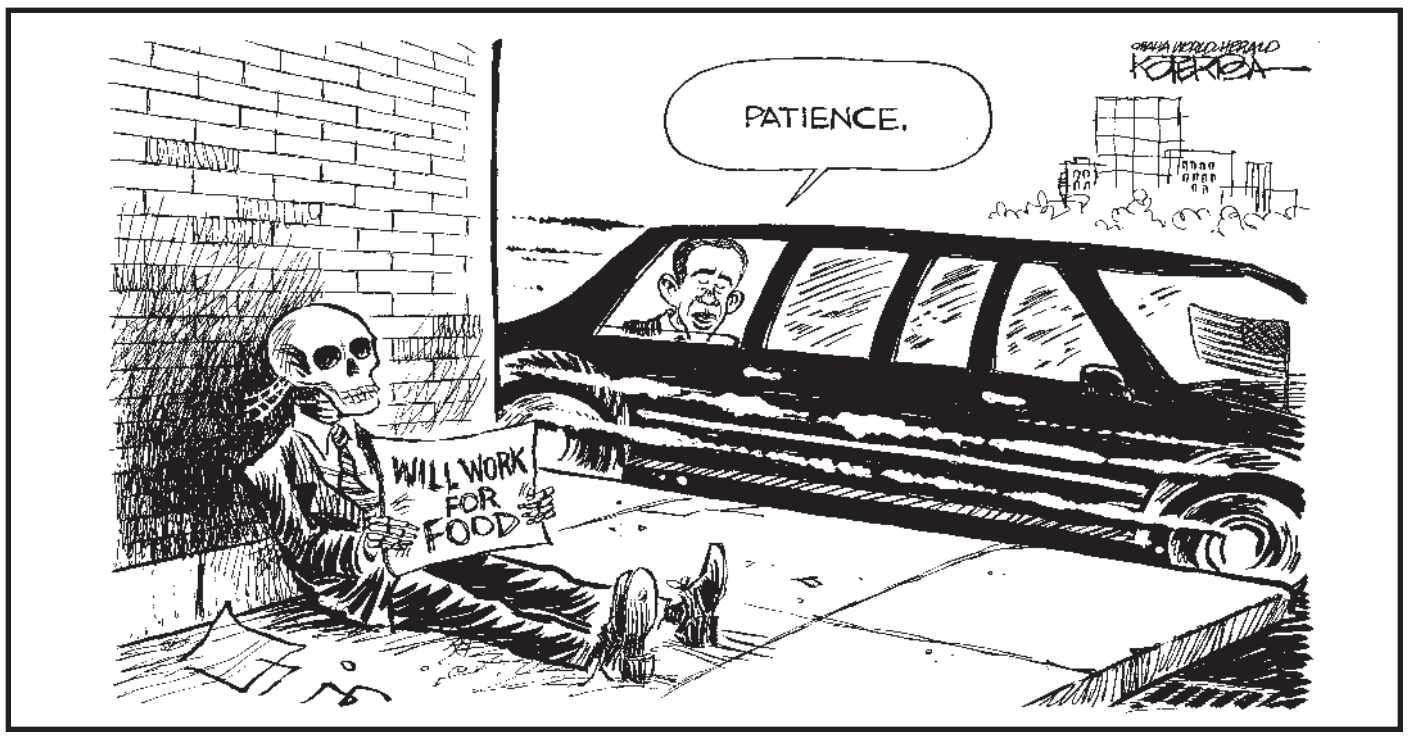
New allegations suggest widespread eavesdropping on ordinary citizens, sometimes under tragic circumstances. In a story first reported by its rival *The Guardian*, the paper is accused of hacking the cellphone of a missing 13-year-old girl, Milly Dowler, writing stories based on information obtained in voice-mail messages and even deleting some to make room in her mailbox for more. In the process they destroyed evidence and gave the girl's parents false hope that she was still alive. She was later found murdered.

The paper is also accused of hacking the voice-mail accounts of victims of terrorist attacks on London's public transit system in 2005 and families of British soldiers killed in Afghanistan and Iraq.

It's all too much, even for the Brits whose appetite for sensational headlines put the *News of the World* at the top of the lucrative Sunday tabloid market.

Readers abandoned the paper in droves, its parent company's stock tanked and its advertisers bailed. The backlash is seen as a real threat to Murdoch's attempted takeover of broadcaster BSkyB, which seemed greased until the Dowler story broke.

But don't lie awake crying for the *News of the World*. Its death is all about damage control. Some 200 employees will lose their jobs, but former editor Rebekah Brooks, now head of Murdoch's UK print operations, apparently will keep hers. And there's nothing to stop the *News*' six-day-a-week sister paper, *The Sun*, from launching a Sunday edition. We'll be gobsmacked if it doesn't.



The CNMI as a food basket and our next big industry

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Agriculture can be our next big industry. We have the fertile land and the knowledge to produce tons of fruits and vegetables monthly. We have a neighbor, Guam, that needs all that we can grow. Our acres of diamonds are right here under our feet. This opportunity did not just come along—it was here all the time—we just didn't see it. Our eyes keep scanning the horizon looking for an industry to save us. We can become the food basket and be economically prosperous!

Ladies and gentlemen: *Agriculture is our next biggest industry.*

The next time we load our shopping cart with meat and bags of produce during our regular grocery store visit, let's consider where these items come from. Not many of us do, but we should. There was a point in time when everything we purchased was fresh from the local farm. Farmers brought fresh fruits, vegetables and eggs to market. The neighborhood butchers would work with local farmers to provide the best cuts of meat for us. Unfortunately, that is no longer the case. Agriculture seems to have fallen out of favor as a business. But the need for food has not.

While we run around like a chicken with its head cut off seeking casinos, more hotels, more government handouts, we neglect what possibly is the biggest jackpot right under our feet and in our backyard—agriculture! Believe it or not! The CNMI can become a major producer of food for Guam and other countries.

The CNMI has so much fertile land that can produce bountiful produce and vegetables to supply not only ourselves but also export the surplus to Guam. Presently Guam has fewer farms than we in the CNMI have. Did you know that there are 150 percent more farms in the CNMI than Guam? While farm sales in the CNMI increased by 5 percent, Guam farm sales dropped by 34 percent.

Today Guam imports over $4,423,674 of food monthly for a yearly total of a staggering $53,084,740 annually. How much does Guam import from the CNMI? Almost zero! Why is this? Why do we fail to see and seize the opportunity that awaits us?

Imaging if we capture only 20 percent of that market. This would mean $847,348 monthly or about $10,616,976.00 annually imported dollars! Think of all the benefits and employment that would give us.

With all the new farming technology, we could grow twice the amount of food that we used to grow for the military years ago. I recall Don Farrell's statement in his book that As Lito alone was producing about 200,000 pounds of fruits and vegetables monthly! And Tinian was producing also 200,000 pound of fruits and vegetables monthly also. With our modern technology we can easily grow twice that amount in the same plot of land.

Today Guam has over 183,000 residents, over 1,200,000 tourists and a growing military population. This is a huge market waiting for us! We should be cultivating it. And best of all: our fruits and produce will be fresher and better than that imported from the United States after riding over the ocean for several weeks! What are we waiting for?

A stable agriculture industry ensures a country of food security. Food security is considered to be one of the primary requirements of any nation. We cannot become strong with hungry and unemployed people. A country is usually considered a socially and politically stable nation if it possesses a very stable agricultural basis. As Guam continues to offer her land for military bases, we must offer our food to feed the influx of personnel. We can complement each other.

Most countries depend upon agricultural products and related industries for their major source of income. Why can't we consider farming as an industry and cultivate it so that it becomes a major one? Do we need to make or assemble parts of a machine to consider that work an industry? Farming should be considered an industry also.

Aside from the crops and animals that are produced by the farmers who make up the country's agricultural sector, it also represents the main source of employment within most countries. In addition, when agricultural products are bountifully grown, related value-added industries spring up as processing plants. As a result these sub-industries employ considerable manpower within their operations.

Some countries have become famous for certain individual plants they grow. As a result millions of dollars flow into these countries annually. For example, the rubber trees and oil palms in Malaysia produce millions of dollars in revenue from its export. In Bangladesh, the jute plant in the main source of wealth.

Invariably in many countries there is at least one plant that makes a great contribution to the economy of the country. For example, I know that we have many excellent herbs for medicinal purposes. Perhaps we can grow them for export as many other countries do. These herbs have proven their value. It is up to us to sell them to help us.

Our farmers can be the leaders in organic farming products. In the United States farming has been impacted by large-scale factory farming. These factory farms sometimes destroy the land and compromise the overall safety of our food supply by using pesticides and antibiotics to speed up the growth of our food. We can set up sustainable farming where we strive to preserve the environment to protect the land. Sustainable farmers also believe in treating animals humanely. Sustainable farming strives to keep contaminants from entering our water supply by employing strategies that use less chemicals and fertilizers. They also strive to keep our water supply clean and safe.

The CNMI is not a country for factories or even assembly of parts. We have miles of beautiful landscape and a clean blue ocean bountiful with fish. We want tourists to visit and see the pristine beauty we possess. We must preserve that and use the land with its fertility to grow food for us and others.

Herein lies the future and beauty of the CNMI. We have the seeds for economic prosperity. Now if we would just plant them and reap the harvest. In our acres of farmland lie our diamonds. I hope we have not gotten too lazy to bend over and cultivate them. Lades and

See THE CNMI on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Lucky 7/11

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

Laoag in the Philippines' Ilocandia holds its town fiesta like it lives the meaning of its name, "light," and being in February, it adds the intensity of passion of "heart day." This spirited style extends to the tables of the games of chance. Influenced by the Puritan virtues of New England, my family did not care much for gambling. But the clink of the die against china in the roll of the dice of my youth was enough to goad our emerging curiosity of things verboten.

I remember 2 pesos as worth $1 (now 42-to-1) when I felt rich one town fiesta night with 20 *sentimos* in my pocket, so I took it to one of the tables. I watched how the game was played, drew one of my nickels (yup, we called the *sinco sentimo* a "nickel" then) and started betting 7/11 against the house. Beginner's luck was on my side and before I knew it, I was holding a handful that easily amounted to *dos pesos*.

As a common experience among gamblers who feel the luck of the Shamrock, I started doubling my bet, and when my greed moved faster than my good fortune, got desperate and quadrupled the bet. Swiftly, I lost my hoard.

Dejected, I walked out of the *hassag*-lit (Coleman lamp) tent and table but I had not gotten far when I felt a tug on my collar. It was the guy who rolled the dice in the bowl and saucer. He proffered *bente sentimos* and said, "Here's your money back. I do not want to ever see you again in my tables, you understand?" It turned out he was the head honcho, a distant relative, and he threatened to tell Mama of my gambling if he ever saw me in the vicinity of the games ever again, even if I was not playing.

I kept my word. But as a college freshman in Manila, my childhood friend at the law school came by my dorm to take me to the *jai alai fronton* (think Cuba, Mexico and Spain, if unfamiliar with the scoop ball on a wall game). His Dad received U.S. vet pension so he had the means. I bought a 2-pesos ticket to be "one of the boys," which was a considerable expenditure since my monthly allowance then was only 25 pesos. My beginner's luck held out; the ticket earned me a hundred. I did not go for seconds. My winnings paid for the food and beverages later since my buddy lost his fortune, and still had leftover for another month!

It is the gambling character of the stock exchange that kept me from ever taking the institution seriously, not to mention the fact that I have yet to have any disposable income to invest on a sophisticated bet. I had the chance in various U.S. locations to buy stocks: mid-'60s in California on a new company called Apple, an outfit in Dallas called Texas Instruments, an IT in Vienna, VA called AOL while I was Mr. Mom and part-timed at Micro Center, and the basement-priced San Miguel Corp. just before the yellow shirts sent McCoy and Imelda packing for Hawaii.

I am like the proverbial faithful who goes to heaven and asks the power in charge why "I never won the lottery though I certainly deserved it," and the response was: "Well, it would have helped if you bought a ticket."

That seems to guide the insistent effort of some of our legislators who think having a casino not only will get us out of our economic doldrums but also be the basis of our island economy. There is too much Ponzi touch associated with casino operations to take the effort seriously, and anyone who had looked closer beyond the cooked books will discover the disastrous effects on the social environment, e.g, native Americans *et al*. But it seems like in spite of the experience on poker machines, some vested interest folks think that to allow investors to build casinos in the CNMI is like buying the proverbial ticket. Perchance, hit the lotto!

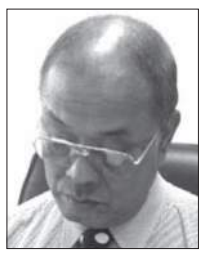
The calendar 7/11 is also the feast day of Mary Magdalene, the lady who wiped the chafed feet of the carpenter from Nazareth with her hair on the poured perfumed-oil that spawned a lifestyle of freedom and iconoclastic stance toward status and tradition. Maria de Magdala might have something worth remembering. For the opposite of amassing wealth, the ethos of our age and practice of wizards blessed with financial genius or pathological greed, is the giving away of one's being, of one's means, in the manner of the carpenter, and the Magdalene. Life as expenditure. All of it.

Today is also Mongolia's national day, the land of the Yuans against whom the Great Wall of China was built, the land of Genghis and Kublai Khan, the Huns who intruded on the Hans, and almost crossed the Rhine. The train ride from Beijing to Ulan Bator is on my to-do list, and having had a couple of their cousins from *Nei Monggu* attend my Oral English class gives us incentive to look closer at the hypnotic and tantalizing slit-eyes of the people of the steppes.

Which is just as good a time to remember admonitions in my youth, that authentic living consists of total expenditure on behalf of all in one's particular situation, spirituality is simply effective sustenance in this journey, that we manifest this authenticity in a primal community, and human authenticity is the birthright of every person in the world. The authority of authenticity trumps lucky 7/11 any day!

Did I say I also preach? Have a fruitful and authentic 7/11 day.

Lastima todu i inañgoghu



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

Mas ke trenta años ta huñgog man-ma'lag promesa siha para uma-adelanta kualidat linala' linahyan guine. Lau taya' makomple soluke mana' fan apalo'pu' basulan promesa gi kantun katsada. I kuestion: Hafa bidan niniha i man-ma'gasta para uma-ataha i sige ha' mas dumidog na baban kinalamten guine?

I empleau siha gi todu atmos banda esta taya' mafachuchue' fuera ke apas CUC yan gaselina. Ti humahalom trabiha gaston nesessidat familia, hinemlu yan otru siha obligasion. Lamegai esta man-hanau lagu ginen todu tres islas. Mas megai para u fan hanau antes de uttimon este na sakan. Hafa na taiguine na estau linala' 'nai in' pega i tautauta siha?

I Kulan destrosiun hinalom tasi ni todu tumuñgu' na mamamaila'. Pot este na rason na memegaiña para umadiñgu i tanu' sa' muñga siha lumie' destrosiun linala' niha mismu. Mas menos salape gi kahan publiku ya siempre fuetsau umana' fan basta lamegai na empleau ginen chechu' niha. Estague petmanente na rekueddon i man-ma'gasta pagu. Hafa futuron famaguonta gi papa' este na modun gobietnamentu?

Magahet na guaha 'nai matrukus-yu' hafa siña hu chogue pot adelanton tautauta guine kumu unuyu' gi ma-elihe? Un' ratu ha' amigu: hagu ma-elihe ti guahu. Hagu man-hula', ti guahu. Anog na un' atrebi hau gi ti fafayimu, pues sipudera un' hinegse ni finu' man-amku: tat banidosu ti timatke fundiyosña!

Lau anog na memegaiña ti makomprende hafa sustansian i Perlas Iya Pasifiku yan hafa dichu obligasion niha gi puestun offisinan publiku. Dispues, mauleg in' komprende na kada sakan 'nai un' diskuida hau, tres años tatte un' luñu' i linala' publiku. Estague' mauleg in' kemprende kosake siña in' lie' diskuidon miyu mismu ya in' fan gaimamahlau otru biahe. Pot fabor muñga man-atrabisau gi ti fafayen miyu.

Seriosu chechu linahyan ya mauleg in' faisen maisa hamyu hafa esta in' chegue para in' adelanta i sumen chafleg na linala' publiku pagu. Siña in' ñañgon i publiku pot fabot?

Man-hanau membron lehislatura man-bakasion giya Palau para u fan man-ayuda masatba probleman otru. Un' ratu ha' fan señores yan señoras. Hafa na i probleman otru in' falalague ke mismu probleman iya Marianas? Na ti manmanhula' hamyu pot iya Marianas? Kau areglon biskileta yan pantie famalaon uttimu nina' siñan miyu?

I pagyu pagu ha tututuhon rinikohen mañglu yan sinparat na uchan. Dañgkulu na destrosiu para u impatta gi todu isla guine. Kau man-listu hamyu manman-ayuda antes de in' fan bakasion talu?

■■■

Ti komprendiyon hafa na sigiha' mañgarera offisiat publiku siha 'nai mañoñogñog galaide'ta. Kulan hit i chaka' gi mediu empi' chandia gi halom tasi ni sige ha' ha kanu i fondu (pot chechu' ambenteria) estake mafondu i sasyanta.

Ni dikiki' na hospitat giya Tinian yan Luta chatsaga ta sodae' salape' lau libianu in' seda' kantida para in' fan bakasion Palau yan otru siha lugat? Mañgge señores yan señoras sensian kabayeru gi ta fafana' na didog chinatsaga?

■■■

Este i ta padedese pagu, masusesede sa' taya' ansiosu 'sino sisitan na diniseha para ta fan aguot kanai pagu na biahe sa' mampos loka' i chubasku i tasin ekonomia guine.

Tatnai ta huñgog na guaha seriosu na planu ginen administrasion para u egaihon mona man-appruebau na programan ekonomia maseha adumididi'. Kada ramas gobietnu konsu kaprichoña. Mas abarambau yan chafleg i linala' publiku.

■■■

Ha faisenyu' i amiguhu Magoo hafa na sigeyu' fumofu. Hu sañgane na ti u taiguiguine mohon baban kualidat linala' tautauta yangin enfin man-satton i federat gi areglon todu modun kinlamten.

Ha atanyu dispues ilegña, "Lau desde 1978 hita mismu gumubietnan maisa hit ya hafa pagu na para ta sogne i federat lau hita manisau". Ha lapblayu' tatte na taya' hu chochogue fuerake hu repipite i sunidon tanu' 'nai otru tautau ta sosogne pot diskuiduta siha. Sige chaka chalegña. Ilegña, "Iku, egaga' ya un' pega satton gi propiu na petsona i umisau sa' ti hu mirese mana' kahaga' sin man-isague".

THE CNMI

From Page 10

gentlemen, let us pick up our plows and tend to the land that will feed us better than most other activities. Let us not neglect the past that was. Down the recent years we have been misled. It is time now to return to our true selves. The land awaits and beckons.

One day a farmer was out in his fields harvesting his crop when a pastor rode by. Seeing the bountiful farm and the farmer working in his fields, the pastor stopped to chat. "God has been good to you. You have a beautiful farm," said the pastor. The farmer stopped his work, wiped his brow, turned to the pastor, and said," Thank you, sir, but you should have seen what the farm looked like when God gave it to me."

To repeat myself: *Agriculture can be our next big industry!*

Letters to the Editor

Let's work together

Reply to Garry Evilsizer: Thank you ever so kindly for your last letter. I too, apologize for how my words come across sometimes much stronger then I intended. By all means, let's work together!

You are 200 percent right that the people who make the decisions do not have your best interest in mind. And they have not walked the streets of Saipan and talked to someone from Manila, or China, or Bangledesh, or the local people. They are like a blind man throwing darts in a crowded room! We have a worse group of politicians in Congress than you have up on Capital Hill. What we have done on the mainland is started "the tea party group." Elections cannot come soon enough. Many of our politicians belong in cartoons like John McCain. Mr. McCain comes home to Arizona, talks tough, and then goes back to Congress and does very little. I like to catch him at home in a town hall meeting or in a private meeting face to face. By the way he is due to come home in about two weeks. Please, if anyone has information on your "festering problem" send it to my email address FLKeiper@hotmail.com. I am planning on a personal meeting with him and I'll give him all of the information I have on Saipan.

Now, the problem with immigration in Arizona. Today, a Mexican man was put to death by lethal injection. He came to the U.S. as a child and he raped and beat a 16-year-old girl to death. It was a very brutal crime. He was an illegal. His case went to the U.S. Supreme court and they would not stop the execution. Obama, who is up for re-election, tried to stop it; he wants the Hispanic vote! This is one of many stories here. Ranchers have been found shot to death in their fields, police and border guards have been shot to death and stray bullets have hit schools and buildings on the American side of the border. We had two Mexican gangs fight a running gun battle on the interstate south of Phoenix. Mexican gangs have murdered over 6,000 people along the Mexican side of the border and about six mass graves have been found containing men, women, and children since 2006. That's why we call it a war along the Mexican border.

Mr. Obama has declared that the border is safer then ever and will not send troops to guard the border. Arizona people are not racist—they just want to live in a peaceful and law abiding state. The people in Arizona are like the little old white-haired lady who filed for divorce after being married to the same man for 65 years. The judge said, "I just don't understand why you want a divorce after all those years." The little old lady stood up and shook her cane at the judge and said, "Well sir, enough is enough."

Franklin Keiper
Mayer, Arizona

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲85° ▼77°	▲83° ▼77°	▲83° ▼77°

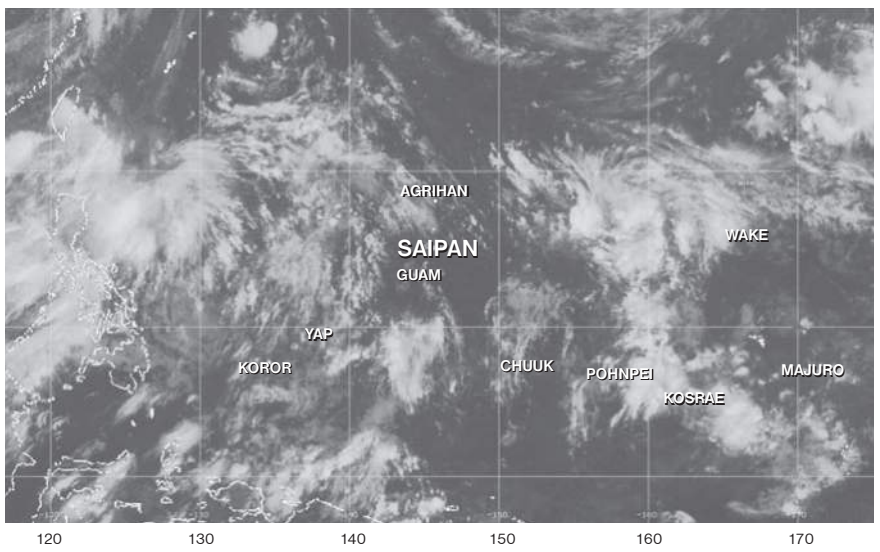
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼76
Palau	Showers	▲85	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Sunny	▲82	▼77
Pohnpei	Mosly Cloudy	▲87	▼72
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲82	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Windy	▲60	▼50
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲91	▼73
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲87	▼83
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼75
London	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼58
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼62
Manila	Thundershowers	▲84	▼80
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90	▼80
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼70
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲88	▼77
Paris	Sunny	▲82	▼60
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲79	▼72
Rome	Sunny	▲91	▼71
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼54
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼55
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲78	▼72
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲86	▼76
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲93	▼74

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, JULY 10, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Convergent south winds are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southeast of Okinawa, or west of a line from 24N140E to 19N140E. Isolated thunderstorms are also found north of Koror and Yap, or west of a line from 10N140E to 17N140E. An upper-level low is centered west of Wake Island near 18N155E. A surface circulation is also centered west of Wake Island near 18N158E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found near these features within an area bounded by a line from 21N150E to 21N164E to 15N166E to 13N158E to 17N151E back to 21N150E. A surface trough curves southeastward from the circulation centered west of Wake Island to end at a weaker circulation centered east of Kosrae at 5N165E. Winds converging near the trough and circulation near Kosrae are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms east of Pohnpei but over Kosrae and Butaritari, or within 150 miles of a line from 12N159E to 6N161E to 2N172E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:48 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
11:33 AM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.2 Feet
6:52 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
11:20 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:53 AM	6:52 PM
Tuesday	5:53 AM	6:52 PM
Wednesday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:05 PM	1:45 AM
Tuesday	4:05 PM	2:40 AM
Wednesday	5:03 PM	3:37 AM
Thursday	5:58 PM	4:36 AM
Friday	6:47 PM	5:34 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2011

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K382	6:00pm	6:50pm	2, 5, 7
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

MU590	4:30am	7:20am	2, 6
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 4

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT
C09313/933	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
5K168	3:25pm	6:35pm	1, 4, 6
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K389	1:35pm	2:25pm	1, 4, 6
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:05pm	12:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

MU589	8:50pm	3:30am+1	1, 5
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0892/9596	9:55pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:25am+1	3, 6 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
5K169	9:55am	5:00pm	2, 5, 7
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Flat jobs data signal weakest recovery in decades

WASHINGTON (AP)—The job market is defying history.

A dismal June employment report shows that employers are adding nowhere near as many jobs as they normally do this long after a recession has ended.

Unemployment has climbed for three straight months and is now at 9.2 percent. There's no precedent, in data going back to 1948, for such a high rate two years into what economists say is a recovery.

The economy added just 18,000 jobs in June. That's a fraction of the 90,000 jobs economists had expected and a sliver of the 300,000 jobs needed each month to shrink unemployment significantly.

The excruciatingly slow growth is confounding economists, spooking consumers and dismaying job seekers. Friday's report forced analysts to re-examine their assumption that the economy would strengthen in the second half of 2011.

They had expected improvement in June after a bleak jobs report for May. They figured that hiring in May had been artificially weakened by temporary factors—a run-up in gasoline prices to $4 a gallon and factory disruptions caused by Japan's earthquake and nuclear crisis.

But the June numbers were even worse than May's, even though gasoline prices are falling and factories revving up again.

"This is a remarkable, across-the-board backslide," says economist Heidi Shierholz of the Economic Policy Institute.

Sometimes disappointing economic reports look better on closer inspection. This one gets uglier.

Workers' hourly pay fell in June. They worked fewer hours. And 16.2 percent of those who wanted to work were either unemployed, forced to settle for part-time jobs or had given up looking for work. That figure was up from 15.8 percent in May.

Among the frustrated is Cris Cohen, who was laid off in April from a job as a contractor for Cisco Systems in Raleigh, N.C. He's been searching for work since then, futilely combing job listings, reaching out to friends and setting up a website with a resume and a blog.

AP

A passer by looks at a sign for jobs in Barre, Vt. on Thursday, July 7, 2011.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

IMF agrees to give Greece $4.2 billion

WASHINGTON (AP)—The International Monetary Fund approved on Friday just over $4.2 billion for Greece, the latest installment of a rescue package aimed at helping the country pull back from an impending debt default. The move by the executive board had been expected after a decision last week by eurozone finance ministers to give Greece their portion of a $17.4 billion loan payment that is part of a $259 billion package agreed to last year. The 17 countries that use the euro will continue, with the IMF, to prop up Greece's struggling economy in the coming years with a second package of aid loans to be completed in September.

Oil falls over 2 percent on weak US jobs report

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil tumbled more than 2 percent Friday, giving up most of its gains for the week after the latest government data showed hiring in the U.S. is at a virtual standstill. Benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude for August delivery gave up $2.47, or 2.5 percent, to settle at $96.20 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. WTI started the week around $95 a barrel and rose as high as $99.42 during trading on Thursday. Gas pump prices rose again on Friday, reaching a national average $3.594 per gallon, according to AAA, Wright Express and Oil Price Information Service. A gallon of regular is up 4.4 cents from a week ago. It's still about 39 cents below the three-year high reached in early May. A year ago drivers paid 87.7 cents per gallon less, on average.

Boehner to seek smaller $2 trillion deal

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Republican budget negotiators have abandoned plans to pursue a massive $4 trillion, 10-year deficit reduction package in the face of stiff GOP opposition to any plan that would increase taxes as part of the deal. House Speaker John Boehner informed President Barack Obama Saturday that a smaller agreement of about $2 trillion was more realistic. In a statement issued Saturday evening, Boehner said: "Despite good-faith efforts to find common ground, the White House will not pursue a bigger debt reduction agreement without tax hikes." The White House responded that Obama will continue to push to make as much progress on deficit reduction as possible.

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Name	Smiles Card Number (last 6 digits)	Name	Smiles Card Number (last 6 digits)
Chen, Nan Kun	451907	Rodriguez, Joseph	924502
Ruben, Pedro	025701	Cabrera, Rita	494303
Yasuda, Masanari	313708	Simbul, Ronnie	543901

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Name	Smiles Card Number (last 6 digits)	Name	Smiles Card Number (last 6 digits)
Rivera, Lorna	011206	Mallieth, Swapom	311605
Arriola, Sadako	142600	Zachrias, Walter	736506
Cabrera, Probio	060204	Santos, Adonis	105906
Cubacub, Ramon N.	510103	Sablan, Darlene Palacios	464108
Castro, Henedina	255002	Virrey, Antonio	842404
Salvoro, Catalina	811701	Ali, MD Shajahan	284503
Muleta, Fernando	589107	Tiu, Jerry	947908
Arellano, Demosthenes	762501	Selkor, Christino	094007
Garrison, Craig	418602	Alcantara, Ernesto	118509
Bogdan, Wesley	403101	Maratita, Ernestina Margarita	006500
Reyes, Brian	059006	Pangelinan, Maria Corazon	811509
Santos, Nida	325300	Ackerman, Paul	173602
Quiblat, James Sheloon	828404	Surla, Priscilla	069506
Deleon Guerrero, Crispin I.	940201	Santiago, Josedante	899704
Rocha, Jesus	734602	Lumbad, Adolfo	576200
Ada, Francisco C.	896201	Nogis, Bernadita	878506
Reyes, Nicolas	156307	St. Andrew Fish Mobile	830400
New Sunrise Corp.	285102	Miller, Douglas	694503
Mettao, Juan	259601	Torres, Danilo Albo	686005
Baluyut, Kimberly	819704	Cunanan, Nelson	034608
Williams, Dehrry	255503	Climaco, Edwin	754109
Percil, Wilfredo Dangalan	514709	Aguon, Ronnie	918700
Nakamura, Kazuhiro	308704	Guo, Yuping	897209
Hocog, Lareina	128801	Guerrero, Tracy	305502
Valencia, Ravenal	039108	Palijo, Henry	354801

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Nation

Anger over Casey Anthony verdict pours out online

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—For nearly two months, the murder trial of Casey Anthony was a living entity. It breathed daily across national television airwaves, then was reinforced nightly on cable TV programs that dissected every word uttered in the courtroom and fueled speculation on her fate.

When Anthony was acquitted of murder in the death of her 2-year-old daughter, Caylee, hundreds of thousands of people captivated by the case—and certain of her guilt—poured their rage into postings on Facebook and the micro-blogging site Twitter. Those and other social media sites provided a platform and a large audience for a decibel level of vitriol seldom seen before.

The threats, both veiled and blatant, were disturbing enough to make the judge hold off on releasing jurors' names, and to make it all the more likely that Anthony will be secretly whisked away upon her release next week.

Postings continued to fill one "I hate Casey Anthony" Facebook page on Saturday morning, with nearly 39,000 people having "liked" the page. In reaction to Anthony's date, one person wrote, "... maybe she won't even make it out of jail alive." Someone else added a picture of Anthony manipulated to give her horns and included a backdrop of flames.

Dr. Phyllis Chesler, a psychologist who authored "Mothers on Trial," said the case connected with people by the millions because it taps primitive instincts rejecting the thought of a mother ever doing anything to harm her child.

"Once a mother is merely accused, she stands convicted, because the instinct is to blame the mother," she said. "She's an outlaw even though she was found innocent."

Richard Laermer, a public relations consultant who has written a book on short-lived celebrity notoriety, said the case filled a void for some viewers.

"People in down times spend their waking hours looking for bright, bushy-tailed distractions," he said. "Casey and her poor daughter's sick and sad saga will fit the bill for now."

Even those who weren't as enraged said they found a sort of electronic catharsis in boiling down their emotions to 140 characters and posting them in anonymity on Twitter.

Wendy Thompson squealed when she got a text message that the verdict was in, but later was in disbelief as she heard the words "not guilty."

Thompson, who lives just outside Detroit, read one tweet asking, "Soo is it like too early to ask (hash)CaseyAnthony out on a date? Maybe?" and replied that the young man should bring condoms.

"I would never say that to someone's face, but I can say that behind my screen," she said.

Anthony was sentenced to four years for lying to police but is close to completing that term because of time served and good behavior.

"Sucks for her," Jillian Barrieu wrote on Facebook in response. "If I was her id (sic) rather stay safely in jail..."

Barrieu, of East Hartford, Conn., said she felt comfortable sharing her outrage with others online.

"It was a convenient place to vent where I knew people would mostly feel the same way as I do," she told The Associated Press Friday in an interview conducted through Facebook messaging.

There are occasional voices of those that offer the view that prosecutors didn't prove their case. "She's not guilty it's already been proven get over it...stop wishing someone to be dead" one man wrote on one of the anti-Anthony pages. But those items are few and almost immediately met with ridicule.

June 23, 2011

TO: Hilbert Henry C. San Nicolas

You are in default in your Note dated September 18, 2006, secured by a Mortgage of the same date, executed and delivered by you to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) Description of the real property covered by Mortgage:

Lot No. 008 T 266, situated in Marpo Heights Expansion, Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 812 square meters, more or less, as shown on DLS Check No. 008 T 03 dated March 31, 1999, recorded at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office as File No. 99-848, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

(b)	Date and amount of Note and Mortgage:	September 18, 2006; $48,658.00
(c)	Amount due for principal:	$2,212.00 as of January 1, 2011
(d)	Amount due for interest:	$10,865.85 as of January 1, 2011
(e)	Daily accruing interest:	$8.09
(f)	Late charges	$0

If the principal, interest, and late charges $13,127.85 as of January 1, 2011, plus accruing interest, together with reasonable attorney's fees, are not paid within thirty (30) days from the date of service of this notice upon you, Court proceedings will be commenced against you to foreclose upon the said Mortgage because of the default.

Unless you, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this letter dispute the validity of the claim, or any portion thereof, we will assume that it is valid. If you notify us in writing within this thirty (30) day period that the claim, or any portion thereof, is disputed, we will obtain information on the debt and mail you a copy thereof. Upon your written request within this thirty (30)-day period, we will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the creditor indicated above.

This letter is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for the purpose.

Ti un komple I kontratan debimu (Note) ni un fitma gi September 18, 2006, ni afabobot I Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ma asegurao I tano yan guma ni un empeña gi mismo dia, un fitma yan un entrega I empeña (Mortgage) guato gi Northern Mariana Housing Corporation.

(a) I deskripsion tano ni ma empeña (mortgaged):

Lot No. 008 T 266, situated in Marpo Heights Expansion, Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 812 square meters, more or less, as shown on DLS Check No. 008 T 03 dated March 31, 1999, recorded at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office as File No. 99-848, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

(b)	I Kantida yan I fechan este na debi yan empepeña:	Septembre 18, 2006; $48,658.00
(c)	Kantida un debi para principat:	$2,212.00 asta ki Eneru 1, 2011
(d)	Kantida un debi para interes:	$10,865.85 asta ki Eneru 1, 2011
(e)	Interes kada dia:	$8.09
(f)	Apas pot atrasao (late charges):	$0

Yangin ti un apasi I kantida na principat, interes, yan apas pot atrasao (late charges) $13,127.85 asta Eneru 1, 2011 yan I resanable na apas abugado gi halom trenta (30) dias despues di I fecha ni un resibe este na notisia, un ma konsidera komo ti unkomple I kontratamu (default), ya siempre u-matutuhun kontra hago a kausan kotti ni para uma kondena ya uma dendi I propriadat tano'mu ni un empepeña guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

Solo yangin halom trenta (30) dias dispues de un resibe este na kata yan un kontra minagahet-ña pot I apudera sino komo I pattida, siempre bai in hongge an asientadu a apulera. Pago yangin un kattayi ham gi halom este I trenta (30) dias siklo man infofotma hao pot I apudera sino komo I pattida para un kontra, pues bai in henta infotmasion pot I dibi-mu dispues un ma kattayi I kopia pot este na de'unta. Anai in resibe I katta-mu gi halom trenta (30) dias siklo, bai in nai'I hao I na'an yan address I akredot komo ti parehu na akredot ma indika guini hulu.

Este na katta para u ma na'kesiña ma rikohi I dibi-mu. Meseha hafa na infotmasion ni in resibe pot este na apudera – siña bai in usa para bai in ke-chagi mu rekohi para este I dibi-mu.

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ.
Attorney at Law

FLAWLESS AP

Space shuttle Atlantis is seen as it launches from pad 39A on Friday, July 8, 2011 at the Kennedy Space Center Friday, July 8, 2011, in Cape Canaveral, Fla. Atlantis is the 135th and final space shuttle launch for NASA. The first full day of the final flight of the aging space shuttle fleet—the most complicated machines ever built—was practically flawless. NASA officials say the unusually small four-person crew of Atlantis worked through lunch Saturday and finished their tasks in near-record time. After Friday's launch they inspected the shuttle's heat shield for launch damage and prepared for Sunday morning's docking with the International Space Station. So far Atlantis doesn't even have minor glitches. The worst problem is that the crew could not find an eye chart for a vision test, something that caused a chuckle among ground controllers.

ACROSS THE NATION

Army amputee thrown from NY roller coaster, dies

DARIEN, N.Y. (AP)—A U.S. Army veteran who lost both legs in Iraq and had been trying to rebuild his life was killed after he was thrown from a roller coaster at an upstate New York amusement park. Teams of inspectors on Saturday were examining the Ride of Steel coaster at the Darien Lake Theme Park Resort, about 30 miles east of Buffalo. Sgt. James Thomas Hackemer, 29, was ejected from the 208-foot-tall ride early Friday evening after climbing aboard during a family outing. The wounded veteran was missing all of his left leg and most of his right one, as well as part of a hip, because of a roadside bomb.

Child dies after choking by electrical cord in NY

GREENLAWN, N.Y. (AP)—Police on New York's Long Island are investigating the death of a 2-year-old girl who was choked by the electrical cord of an air conditioner. Malana Ingram was rushed to a hospital where she was pronounced dead just before 1 p.m. Saturday. Police say the child got entangled in the cord, which was attached to an air conditioner installed in a wall about 6 feet off the floor at her home in Greenlawn, about 35 miles east of New York City. She was found by a family member. Both family members and police performed CPR on the child before she taken to the hospital.

Army charges Fort Campbell soldier in 2 deaths

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (AP)—A jailed Fort Campbell soldier is facing military charges in the 2007 slayings of his estranged wife and her former mother-in-law. The U.S. Army said Saturday it had brought premeditated-murder charges against Sgt. Brent Burke. The Army's action comes after a central Kentucky judge last month dismissed murder charges against Burke in the shooting deaths, but left the door open for charges to be brought back. Burke has been tried four times in the September, 2007 shooting deaths of his estranged wife, Tracy Burke, and her former mother-in-law, Karen Comer, in Hardin County. There have been two mistrials and two hung juries in the case.

Asia

Panetta: US within reach of defeating al-Qaida

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Al-Qaida's defeat is "within reach," U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said Saturday during his first visit to Afghanistan as Pentagon chief. He said eliminating as few as 10 of the group's top figures could cripple its ability to strike the West.

Panetta's assessment could stoke the debate in Washington over how soon to pull the U.S. military from the land where Osama bin Laden's network launched the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, against the United States. Some question why a continued military commitment is necessary if al-Qaida's end is in sight, given that it was the reason the U.S. began the war.

Although not as specific as Panetta about what it will take to break al-Qaida, the top American commander in Afghanistan said in a separate interview that he agrees the group is on the ropes.

"There has been enormous damage done to al-Qaida" beyond bin Laden's killing May 2 in Pakistan. Army Gen. David Petraeus said. "That has very significantly disrupted their efforts and it does hold the prospect of a strategic defeat, if you will, a strategic dismantling, of al-Qaida."

Panetta said he hoped his shift from CIA director to defense secretary, combined with a change of U.S. civilian and military leaders in Kabul, will put the troubled U.S.-Afghan relationship "back on the right track."

Mixed with the optimism was a hint of concern about resetting the Obama administration's increasingly rocky relationship with Afghan President Hamid Karzai. He frequently criticizes the U.S. military and is known to offer what American officials see as weak support for his own fledgling army and police.

Panetta pointedly noted that the U.S. feels compelled to deal with "a lot of leaders throughout the world who have problems ... and that's the situation here. We have to respect him as president of his country."

Panetta had dinner with Karzai but they did not hold a joint news conference, as is customary when an American defense secretary visits the capital.

In the aftermath of bin Laden's death and apparently with the benefit of new intelligence gained in the raid on his compound, the U.S. has determined that eliminating "somewhere around 10 to 20 key leaders" of al-Qaida would cripple the network, Panetta said. Those leaders are in Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia and North Africa, he said.

Philippines probes soldiers over 2 missing UP students

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Government prosecutors opened a preliminary investigation Friday into a criminal complaint against a retired general and other soldiers alleged to have detained two student activists five years ago.

Parents and supporters of missing University of the Philippines students Karen Empeno and Sheryln Cadapan faced off at the justice department, where three witnesses affirmed their statements that the two women were abducted and detained by soldiers.

Ret. Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, then commander of the army division in the area where the women were last seen in 2006, and the military, has denied involvement.

"I am strongly denying that," Palparan told reporters. "What will you admit if there is nothing (to admit)?"

Marie Hilao Enriquez, head of the local human rights group Karapatan expressed hopes that the case will prosper and the violators will be made to pay for their crimes. "This will be a step toward ending impunity," she added in a statement.

In front of the department's gate, police blocked dozens of activists who held placards calling for the jailing of Palparan and for justice for the missing women.

The mothers of the two students filed a complaint last May for arbitrary detention, rape and serious physical injuries against Palparan and six other people, mostly active or retired army officials.

They said Cadapan, 23, and Empeno, 29, were taken by soldiers during a research trip in Bulacan province, northwest of Manila. Both students are members of left-wing youth groups.

On Friday, their mothers asked prosecutors to put the respondents under an immigration watch list to prevent them from fleeing.

Prosecutors gave Palparan and other respondent until July 19 to submit their sworn answers after they pleaded for time.

ASIAN BRIEFS

3 NATO service members killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The NATO force in Afghanistan says three of its service members have been killed in separate incidents. The international coalition says two service members died from a bomb and an insurgent attack in the south, while the third was killed in an insurgent attack in the east. All were killed on Sunday. NATO did not provide further details or the nationalities of the dead. The coalition typically waits for national authorities to make such announcements. The latest deaths make 15 international service members killed so far this month. So far this year, 286 international troopers have been killed in Afghanistan.

Police clash with strike supporters

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—News reports say police in Bangladesh have fired tear gas shells to disperse thousands of Islamist activists trying to enforce an anti-government general strike. Private television stations ATN News and Boishakhi TV report that several people have been injured in Sunday's violence in Keraniganj town outside Bangladesh capital Dhaka. TV footage showed protesters throwing stones at police. The 30-hour nationwide strike has been called by a coalition of 12 Islamic parties to protest removal of a clause from the country's constitution that expressed "absolute faith and trust in Allah." The protesters want the government to reinstate the phrase.

SKorea to dismiss officers over marine shooting

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's Marine Corps plans to dismiss two commanding officers for failing to prevent last week's shooting rampage that killed four marines at a front-line base. A marine official said Sunday that a colonel and a lieutenant colonel at the Ganghwa Island base will be dismissed in the next few days and may face further penalties when the investigation into the July 4 shooting ends. The official spoke on condition of anonymity citing office policy. Officials say they are questioning a corporal who allegedly shot his colleagues on the Yellow Sea island. Claims of abuse among marines emerged following the shooting. Officials say the corporal had shown signs of mental illness.

2nd ANNUAL
FIESTA
Beach Soccer Tournament
Live the Fiesta Way!
5ON5
SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 2011
7:00AM TO 8:00AM:
ARRIVAL/REGISTRATION/WARM UP TIME
GAME START: 10:00AM
Rules:
· Rules will be given on tournament day
Cash Prizes:
· 1st Prize 500.00 cash
· 2nd Prize 300.00 cash
PRE:
REGISTRATION GOING ON NOW TILL THE 6 OF AUGUST,
LIMITED SLOTS AVAILABLE
FIRST COME FIRST SERVE
REGISTRATION FEE
$30.00 per Team
Player must be 18yrs of age or older to participate in the tournament.
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483-8832 Sports & Rec. Manager or email at lucio_aldan@fiestasaipan.com
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World

South Sudan celebrates birth with raising of flag

JUBA, South Sudan (AP)—South Sudan celebrated its first day as an independent nation Saturday, raising its flag before tens of thousands of cheering citizens elated to reach the end of a 50-year struggle.

U.S. President Barack Obama called the day a new dawn after the darkness of war, while visiting dignitaries offered both congratulations and prodding for South Sudan and its former ruler, Sudan, to avoid a return to conflict over serious and unresolved disagreements.

"The eyes of the world are now on us," said South Sudan President Salva Kiir, who was inaugurated during a scorching midday ceremony. Kiir stressed that the people of South Sudan must advance their country together, and unite as countrymen first, casting aside allegiances to the dozens of tribes that reside here.

Saturday meant that South Sudan and its black tribesmen would for the first time be linked politically with sub-Saharan Africa. Kenya and Uganda are already laying strong economic ties with their northern neighbor, an oil-rich country that may one day ship its oil to a Kenyan port, instead of through the pipelines controlled by Khartoum.

"From today our identity is southern and African, not Arabic and Muslim," read a hand-painted sign that one man carried as he walked through the crowds.

South Sudan first celebrated its new status with a a raucous street party at midnight. At a packed midday ceremony, the speaker of parliament read a proclamation of independence as the flag of Sudan was lowered and the flag of South Sudan was raised, sparking wild cheers from a crowd tens of thousands strong.

"Hallelujah!" one resident yelled, as other onlookers wiped away tears.

The U.S. and Britain, among others, announced their recognition of South Sudan as a sovereign nation.

"A proud flag flies over Juba and the map of the world has been redrawn," Obama said in a statement. "These symbols speak to the blood that has been spilled, the tears that have been shed, the ballots that have been cast, and the hopes that have been realized by so many millions of people."

Sudan President Omar al-Bashir, a deeply unpopular man in Juba, arrived to a mixture of boos and murmurs. He stood beside Kiir and smiled during the ceremony, and said in a speech that he respected the south's choice to secede, even as he prodded Obama "to meet his promsie and lift the sanctions imposed on Sudan."

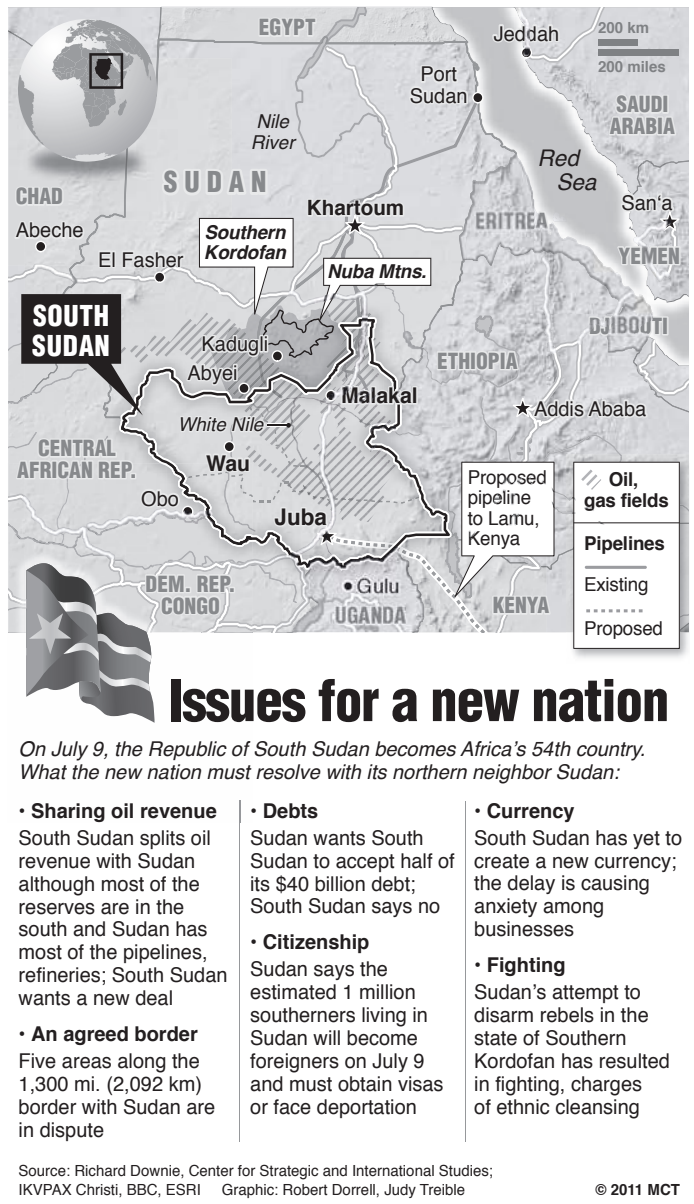
The U.S. has promised economic and political rewards to Khartoum if it allows the south to secede peacefully, but military standoffs in the contested border region of Abyei and new fighting in South Kordofan—a state in Sudan with many south-supporting residents—risk new north-south conflict. The U.S. has indicated that those issues need to be resolved before normalization of relations occur.

Obama said that South Sudan and Sudan must recognize that they will be more secure and prosperous if they move beyond past differences peacefully. He said the 2005 peace deal must be full implemented and the status of Abyei resolved.

In Khartoum, the former capital of the south, newspaper headlines bid goodbye, with one saying: "Time to Let Go."

AP

Southern Sudanese celebrate their first independence day in the capital city of Juba on Saturday, July 9, 2011.



Issues for a new nation

On July 9, the Republic of South Sudan becomes Africa's 54th country. What the new nation must resolve with its northern neighbor Sudan:

- **Sharing oil revenue**
South Sudan splits oil revenue with Sudan although most of the reserves are in the south and Sudan has most of the pipelines, refineries; South Sudan wants a new deal
- **An agreed border**
Five areas along the 1,300 mi. (2,092 km) border with Sudan are in dispute
- **Debts**
Sudan wants South Sudan to accept half of its $40 billion debt; South Sudan says no
- **Citizenship**
Sudan says the estimated 1 million southerners living in Sudan will become foreigners on July 9 and must obtain visas or face deportation
- **Currency**
South Sudan has yet to create a new currency; the delay is causing anxiety among businesses
- **Fighting**
Sudan's attempt to disarm rebels in the state of Southern Kordofan has resulted in fighting, charges of ethnic cleansing

Source: Richard Downie, Center for Strategic and International Studies; IKVPAX Christi, BBC, ESRI Graphic: Robert Dorrell, Judy Treible

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Turkmen police guard blast site, deny any deaths

ABADAN, Turkmenistan (AP)—Police guarded a smoldering blast site near the capital of Turkmenistan on Friday, a day after a series of mysterious blasts severely damaged hundreds of houses in the town.

An Associated Press reporter who came within 1 kilometer (half a mile) of the blast site saw still-burning debris littering the streets and several heavily damaged homes after explosions Thursday afternoon shook Abadan, a town 12 miles (20 kilometers) from the capital, Ashgabat.

Authorities in this deeply secretive Central Asian nation say the explosion was caused by fireworks in a warehouse and there were no casualties.

Online satellite images, however, show what appears to be a munitions dump at the location, with residential buildings as close as 600 meters (yards) away. Exiled Turkmen activists said that was the source of the blast and that many people have been killed.

The government of this isolated former Soviet nation on Iran's northern border is notoriously secretive and reports are difficult to verify.

Some residents trickled back to their homes Friday. All the windows in some four-story buildings one kilometer away from the epicenter of the explosion were smashed, a region that included several apartment blocks and a school.

Police stopped members of the public from getting any closer.

"When the explosions began, we all began running away," one Abadan resident said, as he knocked shattered glass out of the door to his shop. "I don't know if there were any victims, we were all escaping."

He refused to give his name for fear of being targeted by authorities.

While officials continued to insist Friday that nobody had been killed, Khronika Turkmenistana, a website run by Vienna-based Turkmen dissident Farid Tukhbatullin, cited a witness as saying he saw four men's bodies covered with sheets. The site also reported that numerous shells could be seen flying off into nearby mountains.

Tukhbatullin is considered a reliable source of information on developments inside Turkmenistan.

Neweurasia, a citizen journalism website focusing on Central Asia, reported that one Abadan resident wrote online that his house had been leveled to the ground, and he saw a child with their hands and feet blown off. There was no way to independently verify the report.

In a signal of its discomfort with international coverage of the day's events, Turkmenistan's Foreign Ministry lashed out in a statement late Friday at what it described as inaccurate reporting of events by Russian media outlets. Many Turkmens are able to watch Russian television news via satellite.

WORLD BRIEFS

At least 40 killed in Mexico in 24-hour period

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Fighting among the Zetas gang and other vicious drug cartels led to the deaths of more than 40 people whose bodies were found in three Mexican cities over a 24-hour span, a government official said Saturday. At least 20 people were killed and five injured when gunmen opened fire in a bar late Friday in the northern city of Monterrey, where the gang is fighting its former ally, the Gulf Cartel, said federal security spokesman Alejandro Poire. Eleven bodies shot with high-powered rifles were found earlier Friday, piled near a water well on the outskirts of Mexico City, where the gang is fighting the Knights Templar, Poire said. That is an offshoot of the La Familia gang that has terrorized its home state of Michoacan. Poire said an additional 10 people were found dead early Saturday in various parts of the northern city of Torreon, where the Zetas are fighting the Sinaloa cartel headed by Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman.

Hugo Chavez: China granting Venezuela $4B loan

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—President Hugo Chavez announced a new $4 billion loan from China and discussed his health in a televised appearance Saturday, saying he is exercising each morning as part of a strict regime while recovering from cancer surgery. Chavez said the latest loan from China will go to boost development projects in Venezuela such as railways, adding that his government will put $2 billion of its own into the projects. China has become Venezuela's biggest foreign lender in recent years, agreeing to provide more than $32 billion to be repaid in oil shipments. The live broadcast on state television was suddenly interrupted when Chavez noted that Venezuela's national soccer team was playing a tight game against Ecuador in the Copa America tournament.

Cholera surges in Haiti's Central Plateau

MIREBALAIS, Haiti (AP)—A deadly cholera epidemic that swept the country last fall has returned, fueled by weeks of heavy rains that have helped spread the waterborne bacteria that flourishes in the country's rivers and rice fields. The treatment center in Mirebalais, a dusty crossroads town a one-hour drive north from the capital, Port-au-Prince, is again seeing dozens of new patients a day, many arriving at the edge of death from dehydration. The center saw a fivefold jump from April to May and it hasn't let up since, said Louise Ivers, senior health and policy adviser to the U.S.-based Partners in Health, which runs the clinic in association with the Health Ministry. The number of new cases each day spiked to 1,700 day in mid-June, three times as many as sought treatment in March, according to the Health Ministry.

Colombia: Attacks in 3 towns kill 3, wound 20

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—Colombian authorities say nearly simultaneous attacks in three towns have killed three people and wounded more than 20. Colombian President Manuel Santos is blaming the FARC rebel group. Santos says Saturday's attacks are a result of military pressure being put on the FARC and shows the rebels are growing desperate. The president has told people at a ceremony in Bogota that the government is taking away FARC's sanctuaries. Authorities say attackers used firearms, mortars and a car bomb during the assaults on the neighboring municipalities of Caldono, Toribio and Corinto. Officials say the dead are a police officer and two civilians.

Focus

ON INDEPENDENCE DAY 2011

We're more dependent than ever

By KEVIN G. HALL
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON—This year, as the nation celebrates Independence Day, the sputtering U.S. economy offers a stark reminder that today we're more dependent upon foreigners than ever before.

We need them to finance our debt: China and Japan together hold more than $2 trillion of U.S. Treasury bonds. We need them to supply much of the oil that's critical to our economy. We need them to make the shoes we wear and the gadgets that dominate our lives. We even need them to buy more of the products we make, as growing exports are vital to our economic rebound.

None of these dependencies are particularly new, but there's growing concern about how much economic independence we've lost.

"We're much more dependent than we have been, probably since the 1800s," said Clyde Prestowitz, a former U.S. trade negotiator and the author of the 2010 book "The Betrayal of American Prosperity."

"I think dependence per se is not necessarily a bad thing. The question is whether the dependence is working to your advantage or against you. ... Our dependence is growing in ways that are disadvantageous to us."

The most obvious example of dangerous dependence comes from foreigners owning our debt. Through April, the most current reading, foreigners held 31.4 percent of Treasury Department-issued securities, worth almost $4.5 trillion. (That's up sharply from June 2005, when foreigners held 24 percent of U.S. Treasury debt.) Two countries account for half of today's number—China ($1.152 trillion through April), and Japan ($906 billion).

If China or Japan were to sell their holdings at once, that would badly disrupt financial markets. Such a scenario is unlikely, since it would reduce the value of their holdings and harm relations with a vital market for their exports. But holding huge amounts of U.S. debt gives these nations a degree of leverage over us, especially on issues such as trying to get China to devalue its currency.

And China's undervalued currency gives it a trade advantage over us. It makes China's exports to us cheaper and our exports to them more expensive. Our two-way trade imbalance skews widely in China's favor.

U.S. exports to China in April, the last monthly data available, were $7.9 billion, about 8.5 percent of all U.S. exports, up sharply from $4.7 billion in exports to China in April 2007.

That's in line with April U.S. exports of $124.9 billion to the rest of the world, up nicely from $92.5 billion in exports in April 2007, the last year before the U.S. financial crisis and start of the Great Recession.

The tale of dependency is clearest in imports. Overall imports from the world in April totaled $182.2 billion; China accounted for more than 16 percent of that at $29.6 billion.

The U.S. last year had a trade deficit of $497.8 billion, up from a deficit of about $375 billion in 2009. That includes trade in services, such as insurance. On merchandise trade alone, the U.S. deficit last year was $634.9 billion.

Trade deficits are pernicious. They exaggerate the consequences of dependency in a down economy. The larger value of imports cancels out the economic growth associated with exports. In a down economy, imports drag down the economy's broader growth rate, weighing on consumer sentiment and employment.

To counter this drag, President Barack Obama last year vowed to double the nation's exports within five years. That would boost jobs and growth, but it also would make the U.S. economy more dependent on foreign buyers of our goods and services to sustain our prosperity.

The composition of our trade balance may seem odd: Our top categories of goods imports are also our top exports. For merchandise trade, top exports and imports are both in transportation equipment, computers and related products. Boeing and its European competitor Airbus—as well as their aircraft parts suppliers—account for the biggest single share of trade, both exports and imports. U.S. consumers gobble up foreign-made laptop computers, but U.S. exporters sell computer-based medical technology around the globe.

Much of the $634.9 billion merchandise trade deficit for 2010 comes from imports of foreign oil—$270.7 billion through June 24. Computers and electronics accounted for another $134.6 billion, apparel and accessories a smaller but still significant $71 billion.

On the plus side, U.S. farm products were a trade surplus, selling $36.2 billion, with machinery close behind at $32.3 billion, followed by waste products and scrap metal at $24.3 billion.

Obama's export goal faces long-term hurdles. Many big corporations have opted against exporting and instead now manufacture where they sell. In 2010, almost half—47 percent—of the sales of companies listed on the benchmark S&P 500 stock index came in foreign markets, according to preliminary data.

That's up a tad from 46.6 percent in 2009 and up sharply from 41.84 percent in 2003, according to Standard & Poor's. There's no reliable data on this from the 1990s, when globalization moved from a trot to a gallop.

These percentages mean that big American companies increasingly depend on sales abroad. America is a large, developed economy that offers steady but not stellar rates of sales growth. The real opportunity rests outside our borders.

"The size and magnitude of it makes it important to profits and corporate futures," said Howard Silverblatt, a senior index analyst for Standard & Poor's. "The foreign growth, which is substantially higher than the U.S. growth, emphasizes where the companies continue to expand production and, unfortunately, do the hiring."

For the jobs that still exist here, there's also a dependency on global forces. Economists point to a chilling effect on U.S. wages because so much manufacturing and even white-collar work can now be shipped abroad. The increasing integration of the U.S. economy into a poorer global economy is thought to be a key factor in growing U.S. income inequality, where the income gains of the middle class are far smaller than those at the top of income scale.

"I think it's a very significant factor," said Larry Mishel, the president of the Economic Policy Institute, a liberal research organization that closely tracks wage and labor issues.

EPI research suggests that trade with emerging markets, and globalization of trade more broadly, had the effect of reducing by $2,500 a two-earner family's annual take-home pay in 2006 from what it otherwise would've been.

In addition, big emerging economies such as China, Brazil and India will increasingly influence what we earn, the jobs we retain, the price we pay for a loaf of bread, a cup of coffee and especially a gallon of gasoline. Because their growing appetite for goods competes with others, including us, and drives up prices.

"It means there is going to be more upward pressure on commodity prices than we have seen in the past, and oil is prime among them," said Alan Levenson, the chief economist for the Baltimore-based investment firm T. Rowe Price. "You can do the math about what happens to global demand if China wants to live like Europe."

The growing dependence of the U.S. economy on China and other emerging economies results in a leveling out that Thomas Friedman famously noted in his book "The World is Flat."

Prestowitz, the former trade negotiator, doesn't buy that view of the new economic world order.

"It may be flat, but it is tilted, and it's tilted in a way right now that technology, production, jobs and wages tend to slide away from us to the rest of world," he said.

See DEPENDENT on Next Page

Countries holding U.S.debt

Top holders of U.S. treasury securities for April 2011, in billions

DEPENDENT

From Page 17

The growth of these economies—good for their people, and providing export markets for ours—brings with it a curse of bounty. As they develop, these nations consume more soybeans, corn, steel, cement and oil. Over time, that will strain global supplies. This is already happening with oil.

"It was earlier in the decade that people woke up to the scale of the impact of emerging markets on the oil markets," said Daniel Yergin, a Pulitzer Prize-winning oil historian and author of "The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money & Power."

"The irony is we are looking at flat or declining demand in the United States, and it (global demand) is rapidly growing as incomes go up around the world. And that's what is going to grow (global) demand. When countries reach a certain level of income, they start buying a lot of cars."

Many energy experts think we've passed our peak level of energy demand and that we're increasingly more energy efficient and self-sufficient. That's thanks in part to deepwater drilling, which has boosted the domestically produced share of the oil we consume to about 53 percent. And two of our five largest foreign oil suppliers are next door—Canada and Mexico—which are more secure than Middle East sources.

Despite that, the price of oil and its related products continues to rise and of late has slowed U.S. economic growth. America consumes more oil than anyplace else, but even our improving ability to control that thirst has limited impact on the price.

Oil prices are set globally. Increasingly, they're influenced by factors such as Chinese demand and subsidies for fuel consumption in prosperous but inefficient Middle Eastern nations. In addition, financial speculation plays a role. Taken together, these factors mean it's likely that oil prices will remain volatile, and their impact on the U.S. economy largely beyond U.S. control.

In an increasingly inter-dependent world economy, shocks spread quickly. The U.S. financial system has limited exposure to the Greek bonds at the center of the current European financial crisis.

But U.S. banks and money-market funds are invested in European banks, and they, in turn, are invested in Greece, Spain, Ireland and other struggling euro-economies. If things unravel across the Atlantic, this inter-dependency could further endanger the U.S. economic recovery.

In addition, there's the chance that foreign investors who hold much of the U.S. debt may come to view America as Greece—at risk of defaulting on its debt. Washington is struggling over raising the government's debt limit. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner has warned that if Congress doesn't raise it by Aug. 2, the nation will default on its debt.

In a recent breakfast meeting with reporters, Congressional Budget Office Director Douglas Elmendorf warned that flirting with default is dangerous because the U.S. has never defaulted on its debt, and we are increasingly dependent on the outside world for finance.

"That's what makes it a gamble. Any government that has borrowed as much as ours has borrowed—and will need to borrow as much as ours will need to borrow—cannot take the views of its creditors lightly," Elmendorf said. "Even a small increase in the perceived risk of Treasury securities would be very expensive for the country. If Treasury rates moved up by just 10 basis points (a tenth of a percentage point) over the next decade, that would add $130 billion to interest payments over the decade."

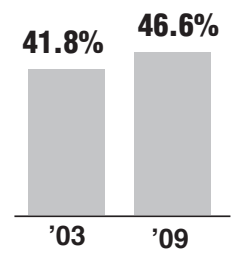
If Washington fails to address this problem by Aug. 2, investors are likely to judge that U.S. credit is not as reliable as it was, and they'll raise interest rates on loans to government, businesses and individuals alike. No fireworks would celebrate that day.

Is the U.S. losing its economic independence?

The United States imports about half the oil it uses, imports more goods than it exports and the rise of emerging economies such as China, India and Brazil is driving up prices domestically.

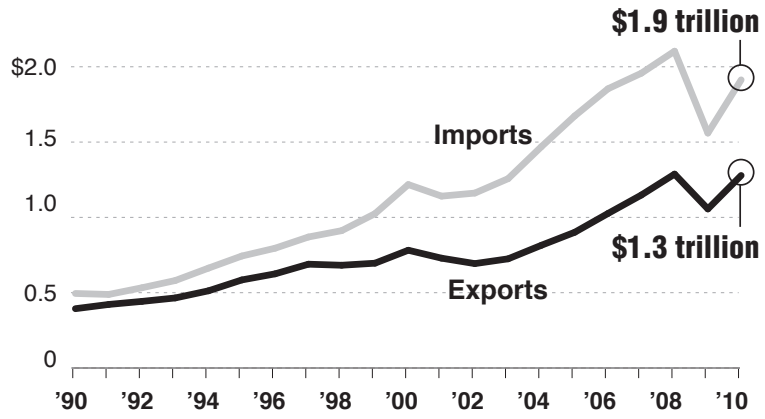
U.S. firms sell more overseas

Percent of foreign sales by S&P 500 companies



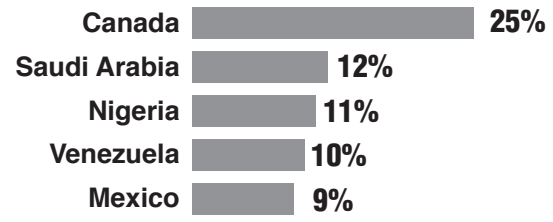
U.S imports more goods than it exports

Though U.S. exports are increasing, the nation still imports more goods than it sells abroad; in trillions



U.S. depends on oil imports

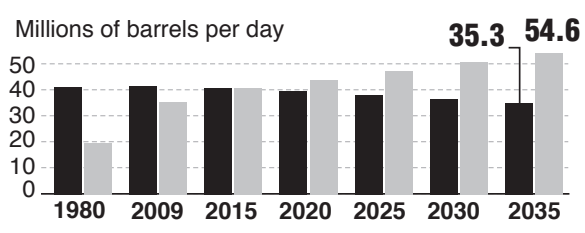
The U.S. imported 11.8 million barrels per day of crude oil and petroleum products in 2010, about half of U.S. demand; top five sources of U.S. imports



Emerging economies hunger for oil

China and other growing economies are projected to need more oil than developed countries, which will mean higher prices for all

Oil demand of developed OECD nations and non-OECD, or emerging countries



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, International Energy Agency, S&P 500, U.S. Energy Information Agency
Graphic: Judy Treible, Lee Hulteng

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Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence
P.O. Box 506689, Saipan, MP 96950 • E-mail: nmcadsv@pticom.com

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR
PROGRAM ASSISTANT

NMCADSV is looking for a motivated team player to join its team! We are looking for someone who is rooted in service and believes in the social justice values we uphold.

Minimum Qualifications
An agreement with NMCADSV's philosophy regarding the elimination of domestic and sexual violence
High School Diploma or Equivalent
Experience providing clerical and administrative support
Demonstrated abilities in verbal and written communication
Proficiency in MS Word and Excel
Flexible Schedule
(May be occasionally required to work evenings and weekends)
Must be able to Travel

Extra consideration will be given for the following:
1 year documented experience/work with non-profit and/or charitable organizations or volunteerism.
Own transportation with a valid driver's license, insurance and registration.

For a full list of duties, please stop by the NMCADSV office or email nmcadsv@pticom.com.
No phone call inquiries, please.

Salary Range: $10.00/hr ~ $14.00/hr (based on experience)

Deadline and Submission Information
Resume and Cover Letter should be submitted on or before 5:00 p.m.
on **Friday, July 15, 2011.**

Applications can be submitted via email to nmcadsv@pticom.com, delivered to NMCADSV's office at the Spring's Plaza Building on Middle Road (north of XO Market), or mailed to NMCADSV, P.O. Box 506689, Saipan, MP 96950. (Mailed applications must be postmarked on or before the deadline.) Applicants who are invited for an interview will be asked to bring a copy of Diploma or equivalent and a Police Clearance.

This project is supported by Grant # 2010-AX-MU-0019 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this release are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

NMCADSV is looking for a motivated team player to join its team! We are looking for someone who is rooted in service and believes in the social justice values we uphold.

Minimum Qualifications
An agreement with NMCADSV's philosophy regarding the elimination of domestic and sexual violence
High School Diploma or Equivalent
Experience with community organizing and/or outreach
Experience planning and executing training events
Demonstrated proficiency in verbal and written communication
Proficiency in MS Word and Excel
Ability to juggle multiple tasks and deadlines
Flexible schedule
(May be occasionally required to work evenings and weekends)
Must be able to travel

Extra consideration will be given for the following:
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This project is supported 100% by a grant to NMCADSV under the Family Violence Prevention and Services/Grants to State Domestic Violence Coalitions issued by the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this release are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

Health & Fitness

Mississippi tips scale as nation's fattest state

By MARY CLARE JALONICK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Rural Mississippi is the country's fattest state for the seventh year in a row, according to an annual obesity report issued Thursday. Colorado, a playground for hikers and outdoor enthusiasts, is the nation's thinnest.

The report by two public health groups has again delivered bad news: The nation is getting bigger and bigger every year. And looking at state-by-state statistics over the last 15 years, the groups found exponential waistline growth - Colorado, with 19.8 percent of adults considered obese according to 2010 data, would have been the nation's fattest state in 1995.

"When you look at it year by year, the changes are incremental," says Jeffrey Levi, executive director of the Trust for America's Health, which writes the report with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. "When you look at it by a generation you see how we got into this problem."

ON THE NET

- Trust for America's Health: http://healthyamericans.org
- Calculate your body mass index: http://www.nhlbisupport.com/bmi

The study says a dozen states topped 30 percent obesity in 2010, most of them in the South. Alabama, West Virginia, Tennessee and Louisiana were close behind Mississippi. Just five years ago, in 2006, Mississippi was the only state above 30 percent.

Jim Marks of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation said the numbers have skyrocketed over the last couple of decades because of the growth of portion sizes and the ready availability of unhealthy foods. Schools have ditched physical education programs and school lunches have gotten less healthy.

No state decreased its level of obesity, which is defined as a body mass index of 30 or more. The body mass index is a measurement based on a calculation using a person's weight and height. A person who is 5 feet 5 inches and weighs 150 pounds would have a body mass index of 25, for example, but if that person weighed 180 pounds the BMI would be 30.

Although body mass index isn't always the best indicator for someone with a lot of muscle, such as an athlete, it is considered the best way to measure the general population. The authors of the study say it allows them to measure large numbers of people because those surveyed can easily provide their height and weight.

There was a bit of good news in the report: Sixteen states reported increases in their obesity rates, down from 28 states that reported increases last year. Levi says those increases have been gradually slowing, most likely due to greater public awareness of health issues and government attempts to give schools and shoppers better access to healthier foods.

"We're leveling off to some degree at an unacceptably high level," Levi said.

First lady Michelle Obama has tackled the issue with her "Let's Move" campaign, pushing for better school lunches, more access to fruits and vegetables and more physical activity. And Congress last year passed a new law requiring school lunches to be healthier. Republicans in Congress have pushed back somewhat against some of those programs, however, saying a rewrite of school lunch rules is too costly and questioning an Obama administration effort to curb junk food marketing aimed at children.

Fraternal twins with autism: Is risk in the womb?

By CARLA K. JOHNSON
AP MEDICAL WRITER

CHICAGO (AP)—Most of the risk of autism has been blamed by experts on inherited genes. Now one of the largest studies of twins and autism shifts the focus to the womb, suggesting that the mother's age and health may play a larger role than thought.

The new research doesn't solve the mystery of what causes autism. Most scientists think faulty genes and outside factors are both at work. And since autism spectrum disorders include a wide range of conditions, from mild to severe, it's unlikely there's a single cause for all of them.

Conditions during pregnancy may trigger autism where there's a genetic vulnerability, said Dr. Gary Goldstein of the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, who was not involved in the new research.

"We've identified lots of vulnerability genes, but not everybody who has them gets autism," Goldstein said.

The new twins study, published Monday by Archives of General Psychiatry, used rigorous methods to diagnose autism spectrum disorders, including direct observation of the children.

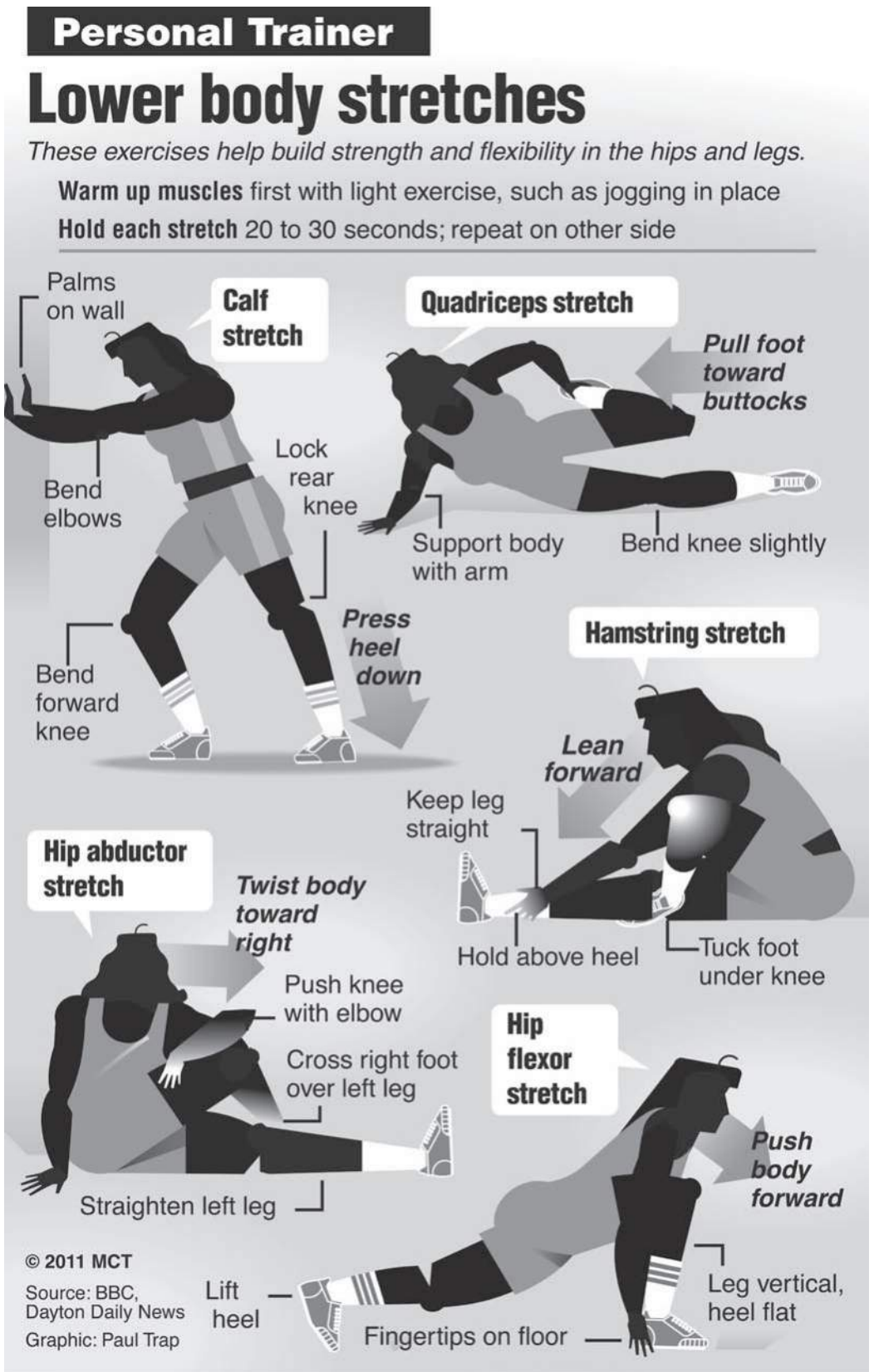
Using California health records, it's the largest study to do that and the first to consider a large sample of twins drawn from a general population, said lead author Dr. Joachim Hallmayer of Stanford University in Palo Alto, Calif.

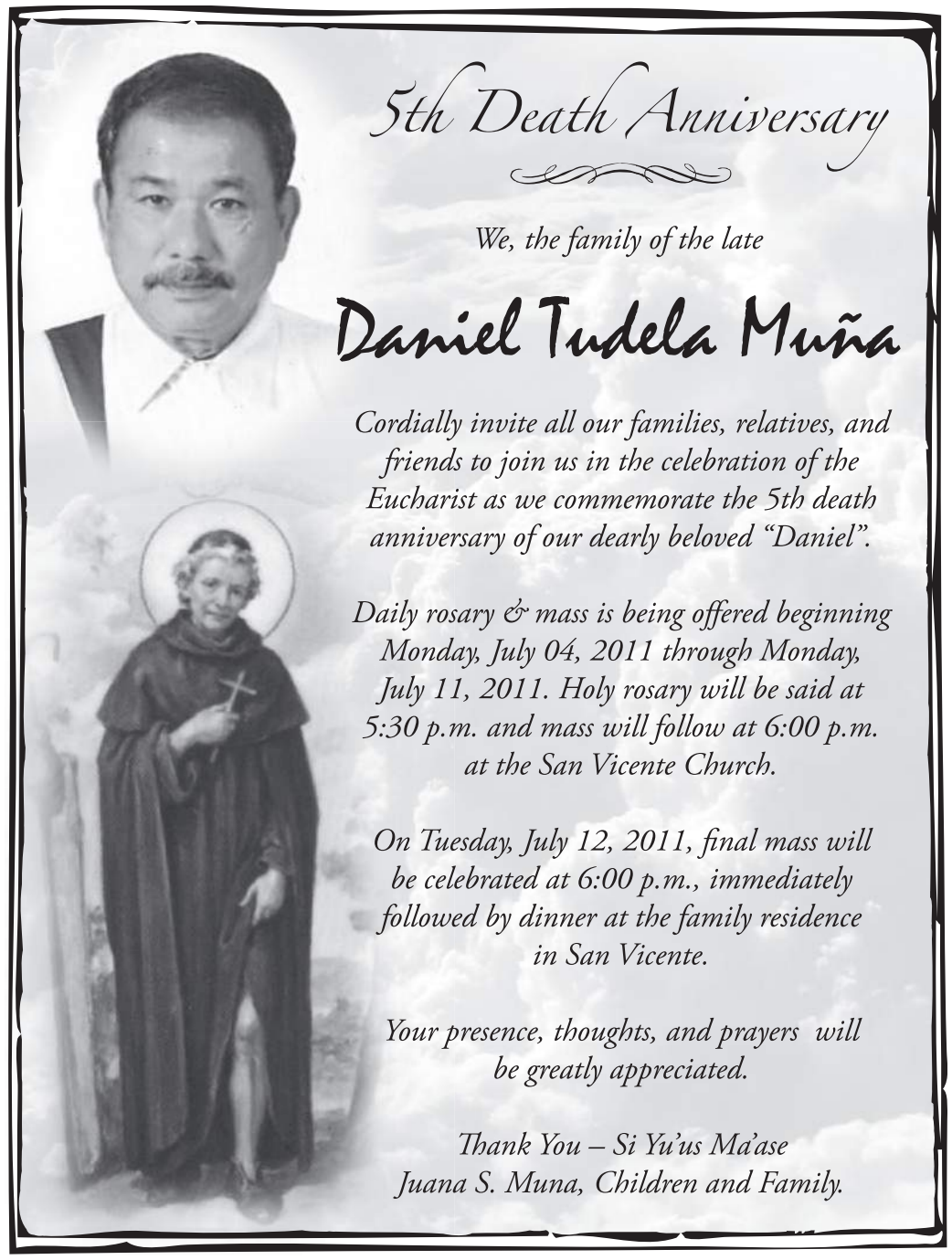
Children with autism can have trouble communicating and interacting socially. They may have poor eye contact and engage in repetitive behavior such as rocking or hand-flapping. One in 100 children have autism disorders, according to U.S. government estimates.

The new study included 192 sets of twins where at least one of the twins was affected with autism.

Some of the twins were identical and some were non-identical, or fraternal, twins.

The researchers used DNA testing to determine which twins were identical and which were fraternal. That was important because identical twins come from one fertilized egg and have identical genetic makeups. Fraternal twins, from two fertilized eggs, share no more genetic material than any other siblings.




5th Death Anniversary
We, the family of the late
Daniel Tudela Muña
Cordially invite all our families, relatives, and friends to join us in the celebration of the Eucharist as we commemorate the 5th death anniversary of our dearly beloved "Daniel".
Daily rosary & mass is being offered beginning Monday, July 04, 2011 through Monday, July 11, 2011. Holy rosary will be said at 5:30 p.m. and mass will follow at 6:00 p.m. at the San Vicente Church.
On Tuesday, July 12, 2011, final mass will be celebrated at 6:00 p.m., immediately followed by dinner at the family residence in San Vicente.
Your presence, thoughts, and prayers will be greatly appreciated.
Thank You – Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Juana S. Muna, Children and Family.

Life & Style

UK's News of the World bids farewell to readers

LONDON (AP)—Britain's best-selling Sunday tabloid the News of the World signed off with a simple front page message—"THANK YOU & GOODBYE"—leaving the media establishment here reeling from the expanding phone-hacking scandal that brought down the muckraking newspaper after 168 years.

Journalists crafted the newspaper's own obituary before sending the tabloid's final edition to the printing presses Saturday night, apologizing for letting its readers down but stopping short of acknowledging recent allegations that staff paid police for information.

"We praised high standards, we demanded high standards but, as we are now only too painfully aware, for a period of a few years up to 2006 some who worked for us, or in our name, fell shamefully short of those standards," read a message posted on the tabloid's website. "Quite simply, we lost our way. Phones were hacked, and for that this newspaper is truly sorry."

Rupert Murdoch, whose News Corp. media empire owns the paper, will arrive in London on Sunday on a scheduled visit, a person familiar with his itinerary told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter.

Buying the News of the World in 1969 gave the Australian-born Murdoch his first foothold in Britain's media. He went on to snap up several other titles, gaining almost unparalleled influence in British politics through the far-reaching power of his papers' headlines.

Now he is facing a maelstrom of criticism and outrage over the sequence of events set off by allegations the paper's journalists paid police for information and hacked into the voicemails of young murder victims and the grieving families of dead soldiers.

The recent revelations culminated in the decision to close the paper and put 200 journalists out of work—but the move failed to stem broader questions about corruption at the newspaper and press regulation in the U.K.

The sordid affair has played out at breakneck pace in the media and prompted soul-searching at the highest levels of officialdom. Prime Minister David Cameron has called for a new press regulation system and pledged a public inquiry into what went wrong; the head of Murdoch's U.K. newspaper operations has alluded that more revelations are yet to come.

As the News of the World's final issue went to press, Assistant Police Commissioner John Yates expressed his "extreme regret" that he did not act to re-

NEWS OF THE WORLD
Edition number 8,674
The world's greatest newspaper
1843 - 2011
THANK YOU & GOODBYE
After 168 years, we finally say a sad but very proud farewell to our 7.5m loyal readers
INSIDE: 48-PAGE SOUVENIR PULLOUT
PROFITS FROM THIS HISTORIC EDITION WILL GO TO CHARITY
It is Sunday afternoon, preferably before the war. The wife is already asleep in the armchair and the children have been sent out for a nice long walk. You put your feet up on the sofa, settle your spectacles on your nose and open the News of the World...
GEORGE ORWELL 1946
I have read this paper since I was old enough to read newspapers. I'm 68 now. I cannot imagine Sundays without you. I will always remember the News of the World for the good things you have brought to light. I'm sad to say goodbye to my Sunday favourite.
JEANNE HOBSON, LYMINGTON, HANTS 2011
RICKY COKE SHAME
GIGGS &YR AFFAIR WITH BRO'S WIFE
CHIEF OF DEFENCE IN SEX AND SECURITY SCANDAL
ANDREW AND THE PLAY GIRL
NAMED AND SHAMED
FERGIE 'SELLS' ANDY FOR £500k
HUNTLEY IN HIS CELL
CAUGHT!
HURLEY CHEATS WITH SHANE
HARRY'S RACIST VIDEO SHAME
JACKO'S DEATHBED

AP

In this photo released Saturday July 9, 2011, by News International, showing the front cover of the final edition of Britain's Sunday tabloid newspaper the News of the World which will be published for Sunday July 10, 2011, with a simple front page message: Thank You and Goodbye.

open police inquiries into phone hacking two years ago. In an interview with the Sunday Telegraph, he said "it's clear I could have done more."

But Murdoch has opted to remain largely silent amid the fallout, issuing one official statement describing the allegations as "deplorable and unacceptable."

He spoke briefly to reporters in Sun Valley, Idaho, on Saturday, where he is attending a media conference, to back the leadership of his U.K. news operations.

The final edition of the tabloid hits newsstands on Sunday, and the newspaper's front and back pages are covered with a collage of images of past exclusives and scoops.

The front page bears an epitaph, "the world's greatest newspaper 1843—2011" and a smaller headline with the words: "After 168 years, we finally say a sad but very proud farewell to our 7.5m loyal readers."

Throughout the day, journalists at the tabloid expressed their sadness and pride in working for an iconic news brand.

Video of the newsroom showed desk-bound journalists tapping away at keyboards beneath television screens broadcasting images and pictures of their task, and plight.

Small clues gave the tone of the London newsroom away—from a commemorative T-shirt bearing a "Goodbye, cruel News of the World, I'm leaving you today" worn by one staffer.

The paper's editor, Colin Myler, offered words of encouragement and sympathy to his staff on a "very difficult day."

"It's not where we want to be and it's not where we deserve to be," he said in a memo to staff seen by Britain's Press Association. "But I know we will produce a paper to be proud of."

Helen Moss, a news and features editor who offered refreshments to journalists camped outside the tabloid's headquarters, described an "extremely emotional" newsroom.

Much of the emotion continued to focus on News International—a subsidiary of Murdoch's News Corp.—which took the decision to jettison the paper on Thursday after the new allegations sparked a fierce backlash and the flight of advertisers.

When asked whose decision it was to close the paper Murdoch said, "It was a collective decision."

The scandal exploded this week after it was reported that the News of the World had hacked the mobile phone of 13-year-old murder victim Milly Dowler in 2002 while her family and police were desperately searching for her. News of the World operatives reportedly deleted some messages from the phone's voicemail, giving the girl's parents false hope that she was still alive.

That ignited public outrage far beyond any previous reaction to press intrusion into the lives of politicians and celebrities, which the paper has acknowledged and for which it has paid compensation to some prominent victims, including actress Sienna Miller.

Revelations that journalists paid police for information added fuel to the fire, prompting calls for a boycott and causing dozens of companies to pull their advertising from the paper amid fears they would be tainted by association.

James Murdoch—tipped by many as a likely successor to his father—then announced Thursday that this Sunday's edition of the tabloid would be its last and all revenue from it will go to "good causes."

The closure was seen by some as a desperate attempt by the media conglomerate to stem negative fallout and thus save its 12 billion-pound ($19 billion) deal to take over satellite broadcaster British Sky Broadcasting.

But the British government has signaled that deal will be delayed because of the crisis and the scandal has continued to unfold with the announcement of three arrests linked to the matter on Friday.

Andy Coulson—a former News of the World editor and ex-communications chief to Prime Minister David Cameron—was arrested Friday, as was Clive Goodman, an ex-News of the World royal reporter, and an unidentified 63-year-old man. All three have since been released on bail.

The developments have turned up the heat on Britain's media industry amid concerns a police investigation won't stop with the News of the World.

It has also cast new scrutiny on the cozy relationship between British politicians and the powerful Murdoch empire, putting the media baron's company on the defensive.

Many journalists and media watchers have expressed astonishment that Rebekah Brooks, who was editor of News of the World when some of the hacking allegedly occurred, was keeping her job at head of News Corp.'s U.K. newspaper operations while the paper's 200 employees were laid off.

When asked Saturday if Brooks continues to have his support, Rupert Murdoch replied simply: "Total."

"We already apologized," he said. "We've been let down by people ... the paper let down its readers."

Brooks told lawmakers she had "no knowledge whatsoever" of the Milly Dowler hacking or any other case while she was editor, according to a letter published by Britain's home affairs select committee on Saturday.

"I also want to reassure you that the practice of phone hacking is not continuing at the News of the World," she said in response to the committee's request for new evidence. "For the avoidance of doubt, I should add that we have no reason to believe that any phone hacking occurred at any other of our titles."

While she has been portrayed as a villain in the unfolding story, Brooks—with strong connections to British politics and decades of experience behind her—has insisted she is the right person to lead News International through the crisis.

Upping the ante, the Church of England threatened to pull nearly 4 million pounds of investments from News Corp. if it "does not hold senior executives to account...for the gross failures of management at the News of the World."

The church's ethical investment advisory group said Saturday it wrote to News Corp. saying closing News of the World was not a "sufficient response" to the "utterly reprehensible and unethical" practices uncovered at the tabloid.

As he led the News of the World's staff out of the building to cheers and applause, Myler, the editor, paid tribute to his team's professionalism and thanked the tabloid's readers.

"In the best tradition" of Britain's newspapers, he told the gathered press scrum, "we are going to the pub."

Murdoch's empire
News Corporation

Newspapers are just one part of News Corp.'s media empire, which had more than $32 billion in revenue in 2010.

Segment	Percentage of 2010 revenue
Filmed entertainment Including 20th Century Fox, Fox Searchlight Pictures, Fox Studios	23.3% ($7.6 billion)
Publishing Including Wall Street Journal, HarperCollins, and 35.5% of all newspaper market share in Britain	22.5% ($7.4 billion)
Cable network programming Including Fox News Channel, National Geographic Channel, Fox sports channels, FX	21.5% ($7.0 billion)
Television Including Fox Broadcasting, Fox Sports, Fox television stations	12.9% ($4.2 billion)
Satellite television* Including BSkyB, FOXTEL, Sky Deutschland, Sky Italia	11.6% ($3.8 billion)
Other Including Hulu.com, News Outdoor, National Rugby League	8.3% ($2.7 billion)

*News Corp. wholly owns Sky Italia, has partial ownership of other direct broadcast satellite television companies

NOTE: Percentages do not add up to 100% because of rounding

Source: News Corp. Graphic: Los Angeles Times

© 2011 MCT

Former first lady Betty Ford dies at 93

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Betty Ford said things that first ladies just don't say, even today. And 1970s America loved her for it.

According to Mrs. Ford, her young adult children probably had smoked marijuana—and if she were their age, she'd try it, too. She told "60 Minutes" she wouldn't be surprised to learn that her youngest, 18-year-old Susan, was in a sexual relationship (an embarrassed Susan issued a denial).

She mused that living together before marriage might be wise, thought women should be drafted into the military if men were, and spoke up unapologetically for abortion rights, taking a position contrary to the president's. "Having babies is a blessing, not a duty," Mrs. Ford said.

The former first lady, whose triumph over drug and alcohol addiction became a beacon of hope for addicts and the inspiration for her Betty Ford Center in California, died at age 93, family friend Marty Allen said.

Family spokeswoman Barbara Lewandrowski said Betty Ford died Friday at the Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage. Other details of her death were not immediately available.

"She was a wonderful wife and mother; a great friend; and a courageous First Lady," former President George H.W. Bush said in a statement on Friday. "No one confronted life's struggles with more fortitude or honesty, and as a result, we all learned from the challenges she faced."

While her husband served as president, Betty Ford's comments weren't the kind of genteel, innocuous talk expected from a first lady, and a Republican one no less. Her unscripted comments sparked tempests in the press and dismayed President Gerald Ford's advisers, who were trying to soothe the national psyche after Watergate. But to the scandal-scarred, Vietnam-wearied, hippie-rattled nation, Mrs. Ford's openness was refreshing.

AP

This June 1994 file picture shows former first lady Betty Ford during an interview in New York.

Candor worked for Betty Ford, again and again. She would build an enduring legacy by opening up the toughest times of her life as public example.

In an era when cancer was discussed in hushed tones and mastectomy was still a taboo subject, the first lady shared the specifics of her breast cancer surgery. The publicity helped bring the disease into the open and inspired countless women to seek breast examinations.

Her most painful revelation came 15 months after leaving the White House, when Mrs. Ford announced that she was entering treatment for a longtime addiction to painkillers and alcohol. It turned out the famously forthcoming first lady had been keeping a secret, even from herself.

She used the unvarnished story of her own descent and recovery to crusade for better addiction treatment, especially for women. She co-founded the nonprofit Betty Ford Center near the Fords' home in Rancho Mirage, Calif., in 1982. Mrs. Ford raised millions of dollars for the center, kept close watch over its operations, and regularly welcomed groups of new patients with a speech that started, "Hello, my name's Betty Ford, and I'm an alcoholic and drug addict."

Although most famous for a string of celebrity patients over the years—from Elizabeth Taylor and Johnny Cash to Lindsay Lohan—the center keeps its rates relatively affordable and has served more than 90,000 people.

"People who get well often say, `You saved my life,' and `You've turned my life around,'" Mrs. Ford once said. "They don't realize we merely provided the means for them to do it themselves, and that's all."

In a statement Friday, President Barack Obama said the Betty Ford Center would honor Mrs. Ford's legacy "by giving countless Americans a new lease on life."

"As our nation's First Lady, she was a powerful advocate for women's health and women's rights," the president said. "After leaving the White House, Mrs. Ford helped reduce the social stigma surrounding addiction and inspired thousands to seek much-needed treatment."

Mrs. Ford was a free spirit from the start. Elizabeth Bloomer, born April 8, 1918, fell in love with dance as a girl in Grand Rapids, Mich., and decided it would be her life. At 20, despite her mother's misgivings, she moved to New York to learn from her idol Martha Graham. She lived in Greenwich Village, worked as a model, and performed at Carnegie Hall in Graham's modern dance ensemble. "I thought I had arrived," she later recalled.

But her mother coaxed her back to Grand Rapids, where Betty worked as a dance teacher and store fashion coordinator and married William Warren, a friend from school days. He was a salesman who traveled frequently; she was unhappy. They lasted five years.

While waiting for her divorce to become final, she met and began dating, as she put it in her memoir, "probably the most eligible bachelor in Grand Rapids"—former college football star, Navy veteran and lawyer Jerry Ford. They would be married for 58 years, until his death in December 2006.

When he proposed, she didn't know about his political ambitions; when he launched his bid for Congress during their engagement, she figured he couldn't win.

Two weeks after their October 1948 wedding, her husband was elected to his first term in the House. He would serve 25 years, rising to minority leader.

Mrs. Ford was thrust into a role she found exhausting and unfulfilling: political housewife. While her husband campaigned for weeks at a time or worked late on Capitol Hill, she raised their four children: Michael, Jack, Steven and Susan. She arranged luncheons for congressional wives, helped with her husband's campaigns, became a Cub Scout den mother, taught Sunday school.

A pinched nerve in her neck in 1964, followed by the onset of severe osteoarthritis, led her to an assortment of prescription drugs that never fully relieved the pain. For years she had been what she later called "a controlled drinker, no binges." Now she began mixing pills and alcohol. Feeling overwhelmed and underappreciated, she suffered an emotional breakdown that led to weekly visits with a psychiatrist.

The psychiatrist didn't take note of her drinking but instead tried to build her self-esteem: "He said I had to start thinking I was valuable, not just as a wife and mother, but as myself."

The White House would give her that gift.

In 1973, as Mrs. Ford was happily anticipating her husband's retirement from politics, Vice President Spiro Agnew was forced out of office over bribery charges. President Richard Nixon turned to Gerald Ford to fill the office.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Steelers' Hines Ward arrested on DUI charge in Ga.

DECATUR, Ga. (AP)—Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Hines Ward was arrested early Saturday outside Atlanta on a drunken driving charge, sheriff's officials said. The former Super Bowl MVP and reigning "Dancing With the Stars" champ was booked into the DeKalb County jail at 3:41 a.m. and charged with driving under the influence. A jail official said he was released on $1,300 bond, though the sheriff's office website said his bond was set at $1,000. The discrepancy couldn't be immediately resolved Saturday. The sheriff's office said it had turned over paperwork to the courts and couldn't release any further information about the player's arrest. DeKalb County police did not return repeated emails and phone calls seeking details of the arrest.

Jerry Springer: No $1 million Casey Anthony offer

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jerry Springer is caught in the Casey Anthony media frenzy and, he says, for no reason. Springer dismissed a report that his TV show is offering $1 million to Anthony and her parents as "100 percent fabricated." The host of "The Jerry Springer Show" said Friday his syndicated program does not feature "known people" such as Anthony. The 25-year-old woman was acquitted Tuesday of killing her 2-year-old daughter Caylee in 2008. The trial and verdict drew heavy media coverage, and a scramble for the first interview with Anthony is expected. Anthony is scheduled for release from jail in Florida on July 17. She was convicted of four misdemeanor counts of lying to law enforcement but received credit for time-served and good behavior.

Katy Perry postpones Chicago, St. Paul concerts

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Katy Perry has postponed concerts in St. Paul, Minn., and the Chicago area because she's suffering from food poisoning. A statement released by her publicist says the Friday show at Allstate Arena in Rosemont, Ill., has been rescheduled to Aug. 21 and her Saturday show at St. Paul's Xcel Energy Center is now set for Aug. 23. The statement says the food poisoning led to severe dehydration. She performed ill at Summerfest in Milwaukee Thursday. John Boler, vice president of sales and marketing at Summerfest, says Perry wasn't feeling well when she arrived. He says a doctor attended to her during the day and the performance. He says she performed beautifully despite being sick. Perry apologized but said she plans to give fans the best show ever when she returns.

'Restoration' wins Czech film festival

PRAGUE (AP)—The Israeli movie "Restoration" has won the top prize at the 46th International Film Festival in the western Czech spa town of Karlovy Vary. The film, directed by Joseph Madmony, is a psychological study of characters in the contemporary Israeli society. It examines problems of an owner of an antique furniture restoration shop with his son and business after his business partner dies. The movie was chosen from 12 contenders for the Crystal Globe by the festival's grand jury, led by Hungarian director Istvan SzaboSaturday's award also comes with a $30,000 cash prize.

Heavy breathing on family holidays calls for new venue

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have suffered from allergy-induced asthma for 10 years. It becomes a problem only on the major holidays when we visit my mother-in-law. She has two cats and poor ventilation in her house. For years, I have followed my doctor's treatment of inhalers and allergy remedies with slight success.

This last year the prevention methods didn't work. My breathing was labored for several hours after leaving my mother-in-law's house. I am now considering not attending these holiday gatherings unless they are held elsewhere. Any suggestions?

FEELING WELL (FOR NOW) IN BUFFALO

DEAR FEELING WELL (FOR NOW): I don't know how many family members attend these gatherings, but perhaps it's time to suggest to the rest of the family that everyone take turns hosting the holiday events. If they don't already know about your allergy-induced asthma, they should be told. To start the ball rolling, YOU could host the first event. If that's not acceptable, for the sake of your health, you and your spouse should start some holiday traditions of your own.

DEAR ABBY: I have wanted to write you for some time and never had the courage, but now I really need some advice, so here goes:

I married "Wyatt" five years ago. I have two children from a previous marriage, a 20-year-old (not living at home) and a 17-year-old son who has just left because of my husband. I love my children dearly, and I did love Wyatt. But every hurtful, spiteful, mean thing he has said to them has slowly chipped away at any feelings that I had for him.

Abby, I want to leave my husband and get an apartment for myself and my son. How do I do it? How do I tell him I want out without starting a war?

NEEDS ANSWERS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR NEEDS: Because your husband is hurtful, spiteful and mean, you will need to protect yourself before telling him the marriage is over. Prepare an escape plan in advance. You will need money, any financial information you can gather and the help of an attorney. And contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline—(800) 799-7233—for guidance on how to safely make your exit.

DEAR ABBY: My dilemma is how to deal with rude, obnoxious children whose parents allow them to get away with bad behavior. In my home, I have learned to tactfully tell the kids, "We don't jump on couches, bang on pianos or turn the TV on and off." However, what do I do when visiting a parent whose 8-year-old constantly butts into the conversation and tells the parent AND me to be quiet? Of course, the parent stops the conversation and gives in to the child! Do I just suffer through this annoyance, or is there something I can say or do?

TIRED OF BAD BEHAVIOR IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR TIRED: You can suffer through the annoyance and grit your teeth, or socialize with the parent while the child is in school or involved in some other activity. Or, schedule your visit away from the parent's home and when the child is with a sitter. As a last resort, manage to see less of the parent until the child becomes a teenager and is no longer constantly underfoot and competing for attention. But do not criticize a child's behavior in the home of his or her parent.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

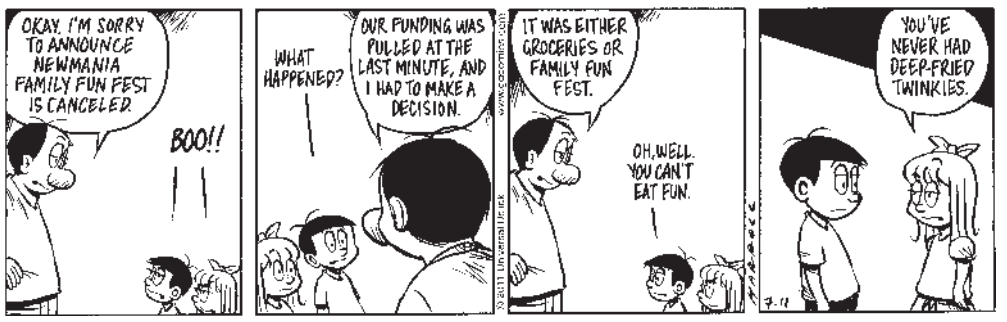
You're gonna taste asphalt fifth period, Twinky. Just so you know.
GREAT. I'M DEAD.
FIFTH PERIOD - "STUDIES IN CONTEMPORARY STATE-SPONSORED TERRORISM."
...ALSO KNOWN AS GYM CLASS.
7/11

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

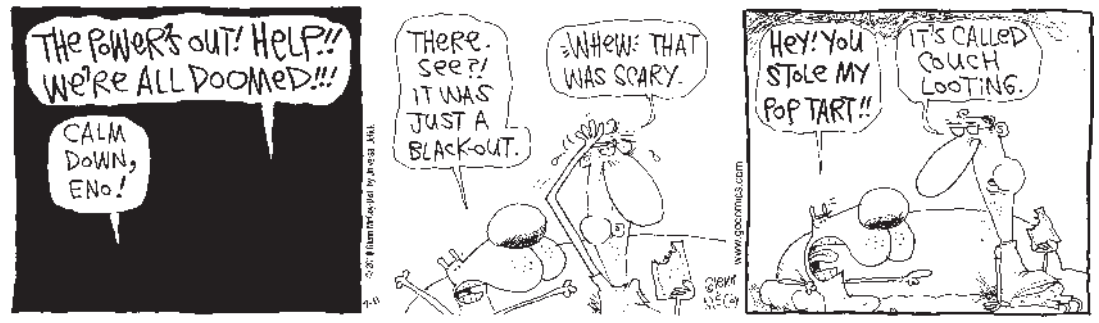
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY, I'M SORRY TO ANNOUNCE NEWMANIA FAMILY FUN FEST IS CANCELED.
BOO!!
WHAT HAPPENED?
OUR FUNDING WAS PULLED AT THE LAST MINUTE, AND I HAD TO MAKE A DECISION.
IT WAS EITHER GROCERIES OR FAMILY FUN FEST.
OH, WELL. YOU CAN'T EAT FUN.
YOU'VE NEVER HAD DEEP-FRIED TWINKIES.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


THE POWER'S OUT! HELP!! WE'RE ALL DOOMED!!!
CALM DOWN, ENO!
There. See?! IT WAS JUST A BLACK-OUT.
WHEW! THAT WAS SCARY.
Hey! You STOLE MY POP TART!!
IT'S CALLED COUCH LOOTING.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

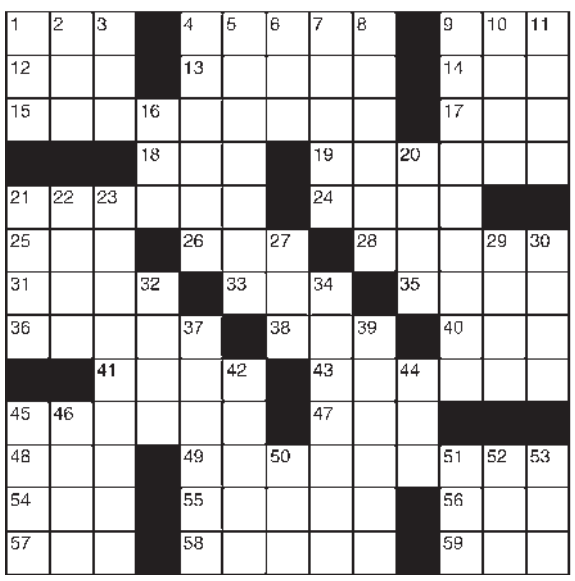
ACROSS
1 Letterman's network
4 Agreed
9 Make up your mind
12 Luau serving
13 Reserved
14 Actress Myrna
15 Prankster's shout
17 Bankbook abbr.
18 "Sprechen — Deutsch?"
19 Isn't honest with
21 Zero
24 Apple computer
25 Fuss
26 Explosive letters
28 Set of moral rules
31 Kittenish calls
33 Rowing need
35 Slugger Sammy
36 Hammerhead parts
38 Society newcomer
40 "— the fields we go"
41 Some reddish deer
43 Chopped down
45 Islamic decree (Var.)
47 Swiss canton
48 Past
49 Foul play
54 Twosome
55 Bay window
56 Genetic stuff
57 Moray, for one
58 Lipstick alternative
59 Morning moisture

DOWN
1 Tax pro, for short
2 Jazz style
3 Knight's address
4 Illinois city
5 Raging fire
6 Life story
7 Food-poisoning bacteria
8 Remove calcium from
9 Traditional
10 Versifier
11 Glitch in print
16 Somewhat (Suff.)
20 Dines
21 Bivouac
22 Notion, in Nantes
23 Nail gun, e.g.
27 Young fellow
29 "Got it"
30 Hallmark item
32 Winter forecast
34 Shows to be false
37 Veteran sailor
39 Emeralds, e.g.
42 Laverne's pal, familiarly
44 Back talk
45 Lose color
46 Chills and fever
50 City of Brazil, for short
51 Peculiar
52 Individual
53 Legislation

Solution time: 24 mins.

A	D	D	■	R	A	S	P	■	C	O	L	A
T	O	O	■	O	L	L	A	■	O	V	A	L
O	D	E	■	D	E	A	R	■	L	E	N	A
P	O	R	T	E	R	W	A	G	O	N	E	R
■	■	■	A	N	T	■	D	U	N	■	■	■
E	N	A	C	T	■	Y	O	N	■	D	O	S
W	A	L	K	■	S	O	X	■	B	U	L	L
E	Y	E	■	G	N	U	■	S	E	E	D	Y
■	■	■	L	O	O	■	S	H	E	■	■	■
G	R	A	Y	D	O	N	C	A	R	T	E	R
Y	O	G	I	■	Z	O	O	M	■	E	M	U
M	O	H	N	■	E	D	N	A	■	N	I	B
S	T	A	G	■	S	E	E	N	■	D	R	Y

Saturday's answer 7-11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Justin Chambers, 41; Lisa Rinna, 48; Sela Ward, 55; Stephen Lang, 59.

Happy Birthday: Let your imagination wander and your creative ability unfold. Follow your intuition, and your inner strength will guide you in a direction that will help you cross barriers that seemed impossible in the past. Socialize more and you will find common ground that will open doors to future prospects. Good fortune can be yours if you are receptive to new people, places and pastimes. Your numbers are 6, 8, 18, 23, 29, 34, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Nothing is too much trouble if you get the results you seek. Discipline, along with speed and versatility, will help you master your task and manipulate the outcome to suit your needs. Don't let personal matters interfere with progress. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Enjoy the people around you for who they are. Arguing is a waste of time, but listening and finding out all you can will help you come up with suggestions that work for everyone and make you look like a hero. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You'll be fidgety if you have too much time on your hands. Take the initiative to get things done at home that will please someone you live with or care for. A service you offer will be appreciated and has profitable prospects. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't push for change when all you need to do is follow through with your original plans. Trust in your judgment and follow your intuition when it comes to your beliefs as well as your business decisions. A social connection you make will lead to a fortunate opportunity. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Your ability to change midstream and adapt to whatever comes your way will make you an ideal candidate for advancement. Check out all your options and consider taking a trip if it will help you get ahead. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You may find yourself in over your head if you say something out of anger or are emotionally deceptive when dealing with partners. Focus more on what you can do to make worthwhile self-improvements that will pay off when it comes to your earning potential. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You need to take a break and rejuvenate. Time spent re-evaluating your emotional well-being will be well worth it. Call in a favor and you will find it much easier to move ahead with your plans. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Enjoy hobbies or activities that lift your spirits. Take time to pamper yourself or to make improvements that will boost your ego. Take a creative approach to the way you decorate your surroundings. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Follow-up will be the key to getting things done and getting what you want. Your initiative will make an impression on someone who can help you advance. Positive change can be yours if you take action. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Put an end to ongoing problems with someone you have known for a long time. It's up to you to call it quits if you are fed up or feel it's time to try something new. Don't limit your options because someone is putting demands on you. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Your expressive dialogue will attract attention and bring you greater interest in something you want to pursue or offer as a service. Greater stability is within reach. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Keep things mellow. Now is not the time to cause upset with a friend, relative or neighbor. Expect to experience delays or problems while dealing with bureaucracy. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a doer and a leader. You are original, insightful and unpredictable. You thrive on the unusual and unfamiliar. You are compassionate, sensitive and generous.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		1	9		7	8		
		6		4		1		
3		9				6		4
7			8		4			9
	6			3			8	
4			6		1			7
6		3				5		2
		4		1		7		
		7	3		2	9		

Difficulty Level ★ 7/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

6	9	7	5	4	3	8	2	1
8	4	5	6	2	1	3	9	7
1	2	3	9	8	7	4	5	6
9	1	2	4	3	6	7	8	5
4	5	6	1	7	8	2	3	9
7	3	8	2	5	9	6	1	4
3	8	9	7	1	4	5	6	2
2	7	1	3	6	5	9	4	8
5	6	4	8	9	2	1	7	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/11

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID QUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PRESCRIPTION GLASSES — Solution: 7 letters

P	L	A	C	I	T	P	O	N	S	P	A	N	S	E
C	U	R	E	S	A	L	E	A	I	P	O	P	R	V
V	E	P	T	T	L	D	U	L	L	I	E	N	I	I
V	I	S	I	O	N	Y	C	P	T	R	O	C	M	S
W	E	E	O	L	S	A	A	A	S	I	O	Ⓒ	S	S
T	N	K	W	E	N	I	N	O	T	O	Ⓘ	A	R	E
T	S	E	L	I	D	I	N	P	L	Ⓢ	L	L	E	R
S	A	Y	T	E	M	A	I	M	Ⓐ	G	E	A	T	G
K	T	E	T	A	L	R	S	Ⓑ	L	U	R	U	P	O
S	R	N	X	E	C	E	E	E	A	X	I	S	O	R
E	I	E	U	S	F	D	N	E	E	T	E	I	I	P
T	A	G	E	O	I	A	N	S	N	I	R	V	D	E
S	P	R	H	W	M	W	S	U	R	O	N	A	A	E
A	P	R	S	T	C	A	T	N	O	C	C	G	H	S
N	O	I	T	C	E	R	R	O	C	R	O	L	O	C

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Axis, Basic, Blur, Chart, Clip, Color, Cone, Contacts, Cool, Cornea, Correction, Cure, Diopters, Dull, Examination, Glass, Image, Lens, Looks, Mounts, Optical, Paid, Pair, Patient, Personal, Plan, Prescription, Progressive, Pupil, Retina, Rims, Round, Safety, Sale, Save, Seeing, Sets, Sight, Snaps, Specs, Styles, Tests, Tinted, View, Vision, Visual, Weak, Wide, Wipe

Last Saturday's Answer: Apartment

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Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nigh-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

1 br. furnished apt. near MHS with AC in a quiet area off Texas Rd. 24hrs water & own washing machine, ceiling fans in all rooms. $375, water included. Call Ed 788-6268.

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YAMAHA KEYBOARD (PSR S-900) includes: USB Flash Drive w/ program. $1,050.00/OBO. For more info pls call/text Rose(USSP)788-3913

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PUBLIC NOTICE

"This notice is paid for with HUD funds by NMHC"

PROGRAM YEAR 2011 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, wish to announce that the Program Year 2011 Annual Action Plan is available for the public's review and comments. The Action Plan encompasses applications for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership (HOME), and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Programs in the Commonwealth. Comments may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC Central Office, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or by fax to (670) 234-9021. Deadline for the comment period is **August 10, 2011**, no later than 4:30 p.m.

The Plan is available for public review and inspection at NMHC's Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, and at the respective NMHC Field Offices in Tinian and Rota during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for CNMI holidays. Individuals needing special accommodations to review and comment on the plan must contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Grant Writer/Planner for arrangements by calling (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours.

"NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender, and employer."

PUBLIC NOTICE
7/11/11

Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents
Board of Regents Conference Room, NMC - Saipan Campus
Thursday, July 14, 2011
3:00 p.m.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
- a. Roll Call
- b. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- c. Review and Adoption of Minutes
  - 1. June 17, 2011 – Special Meeting

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. REPORTS
- a. Associated Students of NMC
- b. Staff Senate
- c. Faculty Senate
- d. President's Report
  - 1. CFAO Financial Report
- e. BOR Standing Committees
  - 1. Fiscal & Legislative Committee
  - 2. Personnel Committee
  - 3. Program Committee

IV. OLD BUSINESS
- a. WASC Accreditation Update

V. NEW BUSINESS
- a. To suspend Board Policy No. 1017: Periodic Review and Evaluation of the President
- b. Learning in Communities Presentation (LinC)
- c. Election of Vice-Chairperson

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION
(At any time during the scheduled meeting of the Board of Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential)

VII. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

/s/ Juan T. Lizama, BOR Chairperson — July 08, 2011, Date

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Australia
By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Thea Minor ended her campaign in the 2011 Goulburn Valley Junior Championships in Australia on a high note after capturing the doubles crown in the U18 division of the five-day tournament.
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CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
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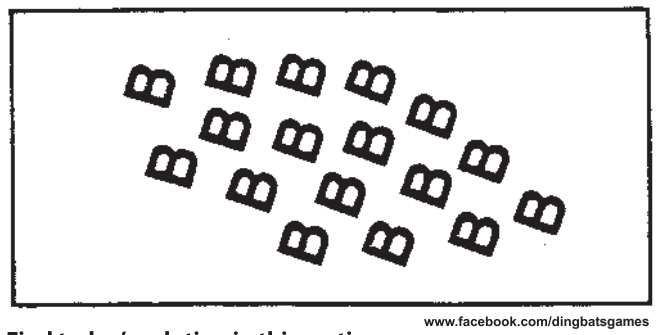

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Find today's solution in this section

Jeter homers for 3,000th hit in Yankees win

NEW YORK (AP)—This was so Derek Jeter.

Pressure mounting, time running out, all eyes on him at Yankee Stadium.

He delivered - and then some - on a defining day in his championship career.

Jeter homered deep into the left-field bleachers for his 3,000th career hit, making him the first New York Yankees player to reach the mark. He tied a career best by going 5 for 5. And he capped Saturday's show by singling home the go-ahead run in the eighth inning for the Yankees' 5-4 win over the Tampa Bay Rays.

"Just one of those special days," Jeter said.

Mobbed by his pinstriped pals after the ball sailed into the seats, showered by ovations from his fans, Jeter stood alone in Yankees lore. A fitting crown for the captain, on a sunny afternoon when it seemed he could do anything he wanted in a 5-4 win over Tampa Bay.

Almost as if he saved his best swing of the season to counter his critics and doubters, to prove that he still was, indeed, Derek Jeter. How else to explain it? His first home run in the Bronx this year, for No. 3,000.

"You want to hit the ball hard," he said. "I didn't want to hit a slow roller to third base and have it be replayed forever."

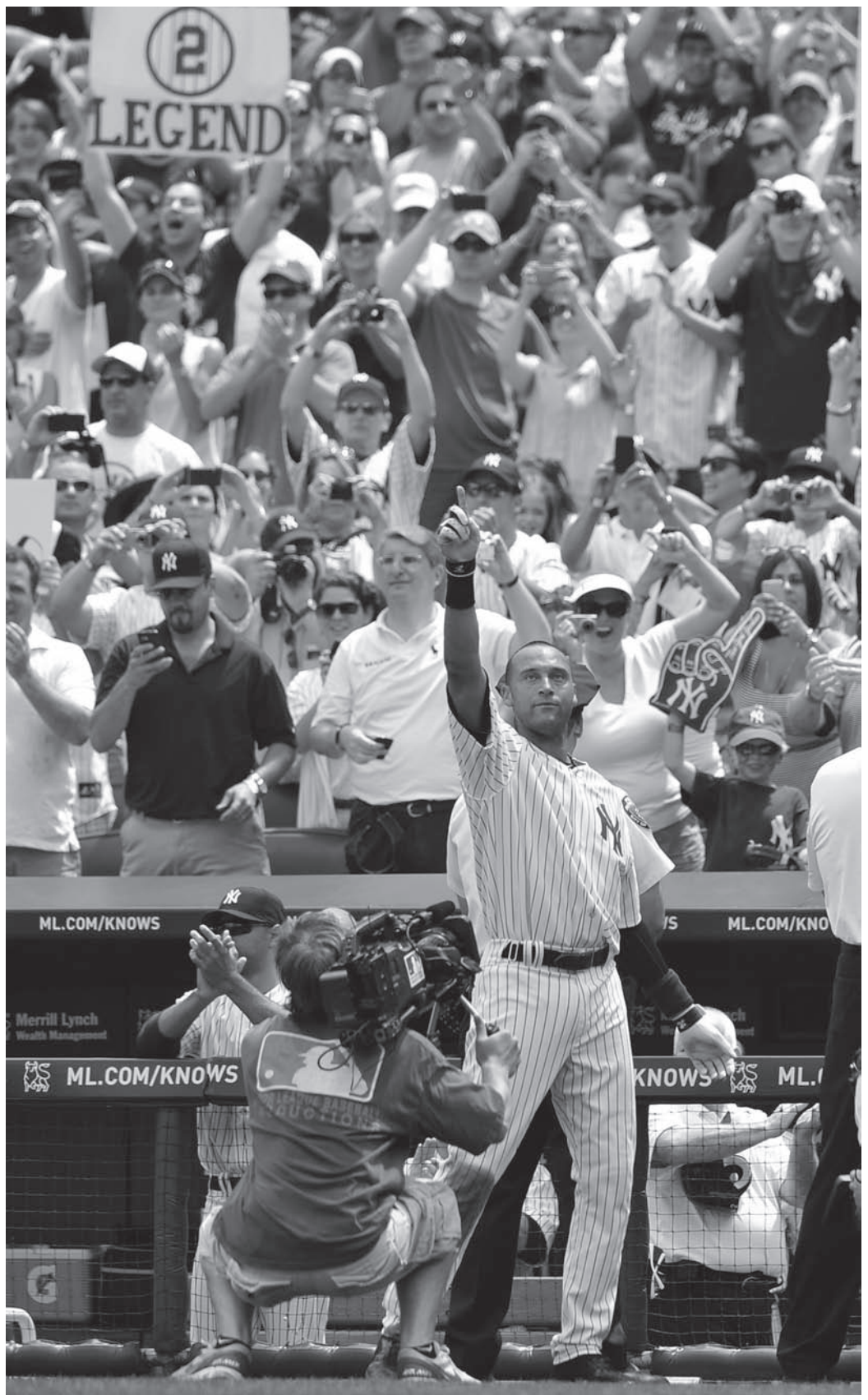
"It's a number that's meant a lot in baseball," he said. "To be the only Yankee to do anything is special."

Oh, and for good measure: Jeter stole a base, too. For any hitter, a perfect game. Something out of "The Natural," really.

"I don't think you can script it any better," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "This is already movie-ready."

Added the Rays' Johnny Damon, a former teammate: "Hopefully he can act very well and hopefully he can play himself in his own movie, that's the type of day this was."

In fact, HBO will soon show a documentary about Jeter's pursuit.



AP

New York Yankees Derek Jeter waves to the cheers of the crowd after he hit a solo home run, his 3,000th career hit off of Tampa Bay Rays starting pitcher David Price in the third inning of a baseball game on Saturday, July 9, 2011 at Yankee Stadium in New York.

White Sox 4, Twins 3

At Chicago, Alexei Ramirez hit a game-ending RBI single with two out in the ninth inning, sending Chicago to its first win over the Twins in seven meetings this season.

Jesse Crain (5-2) got three outs for the win.

Rangers 7, Athletics 6

At Arlington, Texas, Josh Hamilton hit a game-ending, two-run homer to help the Texas Rangers beat the Oakland Athletics 7-6 and extend their winning streak to six games.

Hamilton connected on a 2-0 pitch from closer Andrew Bailey (0-2) with two outs in the ninth, sending a long drive into the second deck in right field.

Blue Jays 5, Indians 4, 10 innings

At Cleveland, Jose Bautista led off the 10th inning with his second homer of the game, lifting the Blue Jays to the victory.

Bautista connected on a 1-0 pitch from Chris Perez (3-2) after the Indians tied it in the ninth on Travis Buck's two-out double.

Red Sox 4, Orioles 0

At Boston, John Lackey rebounded from the worst start of his Red Sox career with 6 2-3 shutout innings as Boston extended its winning streak to five games.

Lackey got a standing ovation as he strode to the dugout with runners at first and second in the seventh.

Royals 13, Tigers 6

At Kansas City, Alex Gordon belted a three-run homer as Kansas City roughed up Charlie Furbush to get the win.

Alcides Escobar drove in three runs and scored three times for the Royals.

Dodgers 1, Padres 0

At Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Dodgers got their first hit with two outs in the ninth inning and still beat the San Diego Padres 1-0 when Dioner Navarro singled in Juan Uribe for the unlikely victory.

Uribe was down to his last strike when he drove a pitch from Luke Gregerson (2-2) over the head of left fielder Chris Denorfia for Los Angeles' first hit and only the second hit of the game for either team.

Braves 4, Phillies 1, 11 innings

At Philadelphia, Alex Gonzalez hit an RBI single and Brian McCann added a two-run homer in the 11th to lift the Atlanta Braves over the Philadelphia Phillies.

It was the second straight extra-inning game for the teams, following Philadelphia's 3-2 victory in 10 innings Friday.

Cubs 6, Pirates 3

At Pittsburgh, Ryan Dempster won for the first time in five starts as the Chicago Cubs beat the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Dempster (6-6) was pitching on nine days' rest after being scratched from his scheduled start Monday because of back pain.

Rockies 2, Nationals 1

At Washington, Ubaldo Jimenez allowed one run in eight innings and Todd Helton homered, doubled and drove in both runs as the Colorado Rockies beat the Washington Nationals.

Jimenez (4-8) retired the first 13 batters before Michael Morse singled with one out in the fifth inning.

Marlins 6, Astros 1

At Miami, Ricky Nolasco tossed a seven-hitter for his sixth career complete game, Logan Morrison hit a bases-loaded triple in Florida's four-run fifth inning as the Marlins beat the Houston Astros.

John Buck added a solo homer for the Marlins, who tied a season high with their fourth consecutive victory.

Reds 8, Brewers 4, 10 innings

At Milwaukee, Jay Bruce hit a solo homer to start the 10th inning and Cincinnati exploded for five runs to beat the Milwaukee Brewers.

The Reds had lost six of their previous eight to fall a season-worst two games under .500 .

Cardinals 7, Diamondbacks 6

At St Louis, Albert Pujols tied it in the eighth inning and rookie pinch-hitter Tony Cruz hit a game-ending RBI double in the ninth, capping the St. Louis Cardinals' comeback from a four-run deficit in a victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Pujols' 18th homer was a two-run shot off Yhency Brazoban that tied it at 6.

Giants 3, Mets 1

At San Francisco, Tim Lincecum labored through six innings to win for the second time in his past eight starts and Pablo Sandoval had two hits to extend his hitting streak to 20 games as the San Francisco Giants beat the New York Mets.

Stricker takes 2-stroke lead in Deere Classic

SILVIS, Ill. (AP)—Steve Stricker stood in the bunker left of the first fairway, eyed his ball in the rough on the edge of the trap, then looked at the flag 122 yards away.

If it felt like he'd been in that position before, well, that's because he had.

"I had that same stance in my pro-am," he said. "Same bunker, same exact shot. I was right in the same spot."

All he wanted to do was get the ball on the green, which he did. And then came the shot of the day, a 75-foot putt for birdie that led to an 8-under-par 63 Saturday and a two-stroke lead after three rounds of the John Deere Classic.

"I was just trying to get a two-putt and par and move on," Stricker said. "To make a put like that, you don't expect to, nor are the odds in your favor to make a putt like that. But it went in with perfect speed and it got me going."

Stricker fashioned his best round of the year while closing in on his third straight victory in the tournament. He's at 20-under 193 following a par on save on 18, where he twice hit into bunkers before drilling a 15-foot putt.

That put Stricker in a good spot because he's won the last four times he held the outright lead going into the final round. Stricker said he often hears stats like that, but insisted he doesn't remember them.

"I don't put a lot of stock in numbers past, present, whatever," he said. "I just try to go out there and do the things that I'm capable of doing. You've just got to stick to your own game and that's what I've been able to do the last four or five years."

Zimbabwean Brendon de Jonge is alone in second at 195 after matching Stricker's 63. Second-round leader Chez Reavie, who started the day two strokes up on Stricker, shot 68 and was 17 under, one ahead of Kyle Stanley (65).

With one more solid round, Stricker would join an elite group. Only 20 times previously on the tour has someone won a tournament three years in a row, a list that includes Tiger Woods, Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Tom Watson and Johnny Miller,

Woods has done it six times and was the most recent to accomplish the feat, winning the Bridgestone Invitational in 2005, 2006 and 2007.

"I haven't really given it much thought, but it would mean a lot," Stricker said. "It's hard enough to win an event three times, let alone three in a row. So it will be tough. I've got to fight through nerves, but it would be special to be part of that list."

As he has done so often recently at TPC Deere Run, Stricker made it look easy, even after getting into immediate trouble with that opening tee shot. He took a baseball-type swing to get out of the rough and hit a line drive that stopped on the front part of the green, where the pin was in to the right and in the back.

Then he stepped up and knocked his putt in, the ball rolling uphill, topping a crest and carrying back down into the center of the cup.

Stricker raised both arms in celebration, then smiled at playing partner Jhonattan Vegas and shrugged as if to say, "When you're hot, you're hot."

"At first, I thought I hit it too hard and then it looked like it was going to be good to tap in (for par)," he said. "And then it just went right in the last couple of feet."

Stricker moved into the lead with a 14-foot birdie putt on No. 7 as Reavie made bogey at 6. When Reavie bogeyed 8, he suddenly found himself four strokes behind—a six-shot reversal in about 90 minutes.

Japan stuns Germany to make World Cup semis

WOLFSBURG Germany (AP)—Japan knocked two-time defending champion Germany out of the Women's World Cup on Saturday, advancing to the semifinals with a 1-0 win when substitute Karina Maruyama outran the defense and scored on an angled shot in extra time.

Japan absorbed relentless pressure during the match, gaining its first World Cup semifinal and handing Germany its first loss in the tournament in a dozen years.

Standout midfielder Homare Sawa spotted Maruyama's deep run in the 108th minute, served her perfectly and Maruyama slipped it past goalie Nadine Angerer to silence the sellout crowd of 26,067 and an expectant nation.

"I saw her running, I saw the gap in the defense and I gave the assist," Sawa said.

The 32-year-old's field vision and precision passing earned her player of the match award.

"I take my hat off to her," said Germany coach Silvia Neid. "It is her fifth World Cup and she still plays so well."

Germany threw everything forward in the final dozen minutes, but it didn't matter. As throughout the tension-filled match, the bounces didn't go the hosts' way.

"I am so happy. We all fought together until the end," Maruyama said. "It was not my success, but that of the whole team."

Japan's Karina Maruyama and Germany's Annike Krahn go for the ball during the quarterfinal match between Germany and Japan at the Women's Soccer World Cup in Wolfsburg, Germany, Saturday, July 9, 2011

AP

Germany's fear of elimination appeared to douse its creativity and the quarterfinal turned into a test of survival. In the end it was the "Japanese game" that coach Norio Sasaki promised that made the difference—one precision pass and lightness of feet outdid two hours of grinding and pushing by the hosts.

Germany had not lost a World Cup game going back to a quarterfinal defeat to the United States in 1999.

The loss also meant the likely end of the World Cup career of Birgit Prinz, Germany's best player and the tournament's all-time leading scorer. After two disappointing games, she was benched for the last group game and again in the quarterfinal. She came off to shake hands.

After the game, the Japanese players united behind a Japanese banner saying, "To our friends around the world—Thank you for your support," recognizing the global aid in the wake of the deadly earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan in March.

"Our playing is to be an encouragement for the victims of the disaster," Sasaki said.

Germany's tactical plans had already gone awry after four minutes when midfielder Kim Kulig hurt her right knee as she was going for a header that just went over. Neid was counting on Kulig's ball-winning skills, but instead immediately had to replace her.

"It was a shock for us," Neid said.

Germany was piling early pressure with high balls, yet after 20 minutes, things slowly started to turn.

The fervor went out of the capacity crowd and Japan got a foothold in midfield.

Unlike its loss to England in the last group game, Japan was able to deal with the physical pressure Germany was throwing at it and their defenders put a foot in as often as the Germans did.

Early in the second half, Germany threatened again when Yukari Kinga kicked a ball off the line after Simone Laudehr's header. Yet Japan refused to crack under the pressure, even if it was forced to concede two yellow cards.

Sawa kept her team composed and set up chances for attack with a close control game and precision passing.

Soon, the mighty Germans were kicking the ball out of their penalty area in panic and with 15 minutes to go, the quarterfinal was anyone's match with two tired teams chasing each and every ball.

"Our players were forced to be patient and wait for their opportunity," Sasaki said.

Agassi inducted to Tennis Hall of Fame

NEWPORT, R.I. (AP)—The long hair is long gone, the denim shorts have faded to memory, and there was Andre Agassi accepting induction into the International Tennis Hall of Fame on Saturday with an overdue affection for the sport he once resented and a rejection of the "Image is everything" attitude that helped propel him to stardom.

In a tender tribute to family and philanthropy, Agassi was introduced by a student at the charter school he opened in Las Vegas and joined on center court by his wife, fellow Hall of Famer Steffi Graf.

Gone was the self-styled, long-haired rebel who rose to the No. 1 ranking in the world but, it now seems, didn't enjoy a single moment of it. Instead, Agassi turned his speech into a love letter of sorts for tennis and even the father who pushed him—not always gently—to play, commanding him, at the age of 5, to someday win Wimbledon.

"I fell in love with tennis far too late in my life. But the reason I have everything I hold dear is because tennis has loved me back," Agassi said. "If we're lucky in life, we get a few moments where we don't have to wonder if we made our parents proud. I want to thank tennis for giving me those moments."

Sprinkling his comments with gratitude for fellow Hall of Famers Billie Jean King, Arthur Ashe and "the woman who still takes my breath away every day, Stefanie Graf," Agassi also recounted a meeting with Nelson Mandela in which the former South African president told him, "You must live carefully."

"I didn't always live carefully. I didn't always pay tennis the respect it deserved," Agassi admitted. "I didn't know myself, and I didn't realize that my troubles were of my own making."

Also inducted into the tennis shrine was contributor Fern "Peachy" Kellmeyer. The first woman to play on a men's Division I college team, she paved the way for Title IX by fighting the system that prohibited athletic scholarships for women. She played in the U.S. Open at 15 and was the first employee of the WTA, sticking around for 38 years as it grew from a tour with $309,000 in total purses to one that paid out more than $89 million.

"Any women who have college scholarships should give thanks to Peachy Kellmeyer," said Stacey Allaster, the ninth person to serve as the CEO of the WTA under Kellmeyer's guidance. "She has been the glue of women's tennis, holding the WTA together as CEOs and players come and go ... never letting us forget that our past is our future."

But even Kellmeyer knew she was just the opening act.

Next came Simone Ruffin, a student at the Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy from third grade until she graduated as salutatorian in 2009. After a gentle dig at Agassi for "the mullet-wig thing," she called him her "hometown hero" and thanked him for helping at-risk and forgotten children in the adult playground of Las Vegas.

Agassi has helped raise $150 million for education reform with his foundation. Another of the school's students, A.J. Green sang the national anthem, leaving "America the Beautiful" to blues singer Keb' Mo'.

"He gave more than just money, or material things. He gave us the tools to build our own lives," Ruffin said of Agassi. "Because of him, I will never forget to look back and lift up others."

An eight-time Grand Slam champion and 1996 Olympic gold medalist who was No. 1 in the world for 101 straight weeks, Agassi plummeted to No. 141 in the rankings and by '97 was using crystal meth "a lot." (He also admitted in his 2009 book "Open" that he wore a wig to combat premature baldness.)

Deciding to rebuild his career, he turned to tennis' minor league tour and in 1999 he won his second U.S. Open, finished second at Wimbledon and won his only French Open to complete the career Grand Slam. The women's winner in Paris that year was Graf; they started dating shortly after the winners' ball and married two years later. (Agassi's first marriage, to actress Brooke Shields, lasted less than two years.)

He reached No. 1 again in 2003 at the age of 33—the oldest player to reach the top ranking—and held it for 12 more weeks.

"Rock bottom's an interesting place. I moved in and spent some time there," Agassi said. "Going from 141 in the world back to No. 1 was not an accomplishment; it was the reflection of an accomplishment. It was a symptom of good choices."

Working on the school has been a second life for Agassi, at the same time providing him with a life's goal and a vehicle to pass it on to others. At the end of his speech, he turned to his own children and the others in the crowd and told them to look at the nurses and teachers "win their own, personal Grand Slams."

"They know already what it took me decades to find out: To shine in secret, and to give when there's no one applauding," he said. "It's not to late to be inspired. It's not too late to change. It's not too late."

Mediator sets NFL meeting on July 19

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The federal magistrate judge who is mediating the labor dispute between NFL owners and players has scheduled another session for July 19 in Minneapolis.

Judge Arthur J. Boylan set the meeting on Saturday, just before starting his vacation. But he also made clear that both sides should continue their own sessions in the interim as they work toward a new collective bargaining agreement.

The principals in the fight over how to split up over $9 billion in revenue met all week in New York, but still have not reached a new deal as the lockout has dragged on for more than four months.

The urgency, it appears, is starting to heat up. Several teams have already canceled their traditional out-of-town portions of training camp and the Hall of Fame game between Chicago and St. Louis is less than a month away.

Boylan ordered both sides to continue mediation without him "in an effort to define and narrow the differences between their respective settlement positions." He also ordered attorneys from both sides to be ready to meet with him on the evening of July 18 "for an in-person agenda- setting session" that presumably would set the stage for meaningful, fruitful talks the following day.

After putting in two days in New York this week, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and NFL Players' Association chief DeMaurice Smith announced that they were taking the weekend off. They plan to resume negotiations on Monday in what will be the first mediation sessions with owners and players present that does not include Boylan.

If the league and players have not reached a deal by the time they are scheduled to meet with Boylan in Minneapolis, it could be bad news for training camps and perhaps even preseason games. The Giants, Jets and Ravens have already announced that, no matter when an agreement is reached, they will conduct all of their preseason work at their primary facilities rather than leave for various college campuses, a time-honored tradition that coaches embrace as a team-building exercise and small towns across the country depend upon for tourism revenue.

The Vikings have already said that if an agreement is not reached by July 18, they will have to cancel training camp at Minnesota State University in Mankato, where they have held two-a-days every summer since 1966.

And the Rams and Bears are scheduled to kick off the preseason with a game in Canton, Ohio on Aug. 7, just two and a half weeks after Boylan's scheduled meeting on the 19th.

Fiesta hosts 5-on-5 beach soccer

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan will be holding the 2nd Annual Fiesta Beach Soccer 5-on-5 Tournament on Aug. 6.

Fiesta sports and recreation manager and tournament coordinator Lucio Aldan said they are hoping to have at least 10 teams for the one-day competition. Registration is from 7am to 8am and teams will be given one hour to warm up. Games will begin at 10am. Entrance fee is only $30 per team.

The winning team will receive $500, while the runner-up will take home $300. Tournament rules will be decided on the day of the competition and only players in the 18 and over age group will be allowed to participate.

For more information, contact Aldan at 234-6601 or 287-3191 or email at lucio_aldan@fiestasaipan.com ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

CNMI

From Page 28

Taiwan knocked off Australia, 9-4, in its opener and skunked New Zealand, 14-4, yesterday. Thailand is blooming after besting New Zealand Saturday, 4-1, and trampling Indonesia yesterday, 25-3. Singapore is raising eyebrows, following a 6-0 shutout over Indonesia and an 8-5 thriller against Australia. Singapore trailed, 5-6, heading into the last inning and pulled off a three-run rally before holding Australia to just a run in the final stand to steal the win. Australia was stuffed with the bases loaded by a game-ending double-play.

CNMI 10, Philippines 0

Visiting CNMI batted around in its first crack at the plate and shot ahead, 6-0, off five hits and an error. The Commonwealth made three triples, one home run from Nathan Camacho, and an RBI single from Rokie Tenorio.

Craig Aguon started the fire with a one-out triple and was driven home by Tenorio before Juan Quitugua stepped in next and bashed the second triple. Quitugua scored off an error and Jadrien Camacho kept it rolling with another triple and touched the plate off a wild pitch before Nathan Camacho capped the surge with a solo home run to right field. Camacho's shot hit the scoreboard and bounced back in, but was deemed out of the yard.

The Philippines went 1-2-3 in the bottom frame.

Both teams came up empty in the second and CNMI went ahead, 8-0, in the third off three hits and a walk.

Quitugua led off with another triple and was singled in by Jadrien Camacho, who scored himself off a couple of wild pitches.

Allen Cepeda later drew a walk and was doubled home by Nathan Camacho.

The Philippines managed a hit in the bottom half, but never touched second base.

CNMI then clinched the two runs needed to set up the early ending off two more triples by Tenorio and Jonathan Camacho, along with an RBI single by Cedrc Camacho in the top half of the fourth.

Nathan Camacho stepped back on the mound and secured the shutout. The Philippines managed a pair of hits that put runners on second and third, but was stuffed in its final stand.

Nathan Camacho gave up just three hits and notched nine strikeouts in the swift victory.

Korea 8, CNMI 0

The CNMI touched third base in the top of the first inning, but Korea picked off the runner to spoil the run and took a 2-0 lead in the bottom frame off three hits and a fielder's choice.

CNMI managed another hit, but left the man at first in the second inning.

Korea's third batter Lee Joon Seok jacked a solo shot over the left center fence in the bottom half.

CNMI drew a blank 1-2-3 in the third and Korea galloped ahead, 7-0, in the bottom off four hits. Two batters got plunked, but Korea still went through the line up.

CNMI went three up and three down again to start the fourth, but managed to keep a lid on Korea in the bottom frame. CNMI tried to posture a comeback with two hits in the fifth, but left runners on second and third base.

Korea's Jang Wan Seok led off with a double and scored off a passed ball in the bottom frame. Notably, CNMI's Tenorio snagged a pair of line drives at shortstop to close the inning

Korea brought out its fifth pitcher Jun Sun Park, who closed the match in 15 pitches.

CNMI was held to just four hits for six stranded runners.

Meanwhile, after the CNMI-Hong Kong tiff today, Guam will take on Korea at 11am in the other Pool B match. In Pool A, Thailand will challenge Australia at 8:30am; Singapore will face Taiwan at 11:30am; and Indonesia will meet New Zealand at 1:30pm.

STRIKERS

From Page 28

"They are expected to have a better showing in Taipei, as several players already had the feel of what it was like to compete in this kind of tournament. They also have more rigorous training this year," Salas reported to NMASA members.

The CNMI U15 National Team is composed of Jordan Butcher, Enrico del Rosario, Ethan Dickinson, Kenneth Domingo, Gregzon Fontanilla, Joel and Mason Fruit, Dakota Hall, William Hinson II, Kennedy Izuka, Hunter Jewell, Andrew Johnson, Angelo Jones, Jehn Joyner, Jake Lee, Sean Perez, John Taisacan, and Jirech Yobech.

Majority of the members came from MP United Football Club, which ruled the NMIFA U15 league for the last three seasons. Expected to lead the team on offense are Jehn Joyner, Jake Lee, Sean Perez, Dakota Hall, and Jirech Yobech, who were among the top scorers in the last spring league. Joyner had 16 goals for MP United, while Perez gave Matansa 13 goals in one season. Lee also of MP United had the third-most goals of the season with nine, while Yobech and Hall logged seven and four, respectively.

In Taipei, the CNMI youth strikers will debut against the host on July 20 and then duel Hong Kong (July 21), defending champion Korea (July 22), Guam (July 23), and Macau (July 24).

WOMEN'S

From Page 28

score, but thankfully, the U.S. came out hard in the second half to win, 2-0.

The second US game was held in Sinsheim, Germany, where they played against Colombia. There were even more American supporters at this game because there are quite a few army bases around the city. It almost felt like it was a home game for the U.S. The U.S. put on a good show and won, 3-0, off some spectacular goals.

To determine first place in the group, the U.S. played Sweden in Wolfsburg. The U.S. only needed a tie to advance first, but unfortunately they fell to Sweden, 1-2. The Sweden supporters were energetic and plentiful, and definitely out-numbered the American fans. Sweden scored off a penalty kick first, then off a free kick that ricocheted off a U.S. defender. The U.S. had all the possession and attack for the rest of the game and was able to score off an Abby Wambach header early in the second half but unfortunately, they could never equalize.

But more important than the U.S. performances, the 2011 Women's World Cup has, so far, been an absolutely amazing experience. No other sporting event can compare to the World Cup and have such an effect on a country. The environment, the competition, and the support all represent a new era, a new generation. Who would have thought 50, even 20 years ago, that a women's soccer tournament could sell out numerous stadiums of 25,000 people? In fact, the opening match, Germany vs. Canada, had close to 73,000 fans in the stands. The environment and passion people have for their community here in Germany is much like Saipan's. When I play for the CNMI team, there is so much support and appreciation. I always feel like I have a whole community supporting me. There is no prejudice; no racial, or gender discrimination. The people come because they love the sport, the tournament, and the passion. It doesn't matter who is playing or whether they are men or women. Here, in Germany, there are even signs on the roads that say "Third place is for men," referring to the German men's team that got third place at the 2010 World Cup, whereas the German women have won the past two Cups, in 2003 and 2007, respectively. There is a collective awareness that this is a special event.

I am lucky to have the opportunity in the past few days to speak with a couple of German men, who have each said that times are quickly changing. One told me that the older German men don't accept women's soccer as easily as the younger generation, but a change is coming. Another mentioned that before the 2006 men's World Cup, which was also held in Germany, fewer people put flags up at their homes to show their national pride. But, during the event the Germans realized how special and unifying something like a World Cup can be. Now, flags are outside of people's houses, on their cars, and buildings. The German fans even go to U.S. games decked out in their Deutschland fan gear. This pride is also replicated in Saipan. When competitions and events happen in Saipan, the people rally to support them. They come in numbers, cheering, not stereotyping, not gender profiling. People come because they love their community, a love that cannot be replicated anywhere else, though I think Germany definitely comes very close.

Going to the first two U.S. games was an absolutely amazing experience. People were outside the stadium chanting "USA, USA," wearing red, white, and blue, waving the American flag, even waiting many minutes after the game to get autographs. The athletes appreciate the fans and their support, unlike some of the more celebrity-like sport stars. Now, the U.S. has to play Brazil in the quarterfinals for a chance to play either England or France in the semifinals. I'm sure this will be a game that no one wants to miss. Unfortunately, I don't have tickets for the game, but I know that it will be a special match and I will be watching closely with soccer fans from all over the world.

MBT

From Page 28

face on and off the court and how will they prepare themselves mentally and physically for the games," Johnson said.

Johnson and his wards--Christian Mizer, Jaymie Sanarez, Ankie Manalili, Josephus Aguilar, Jacob Palacios, Christopher Cepeda, and Kobee Mendoza—finished fourth in the five-team tournament. The CNMI had the fewest players in the field, but despite its handicap, the Commonwealth youth cagers fought hard in every game.

"Our players poured sweat, day in and day out to make the team. They were dedicated no matter what the odds were—the size of the other team and how tired they were—they never gave up. This is the kind of effort that makes a team. Against Guam and Palau, we had to go into the games expecting to be pressed. They knew we had a shallow bench so they used it against us. However, players learned how to get the proper rest and understood what kinds of tactics were needed to help conserve their energy for the final quarter," Johnson said.

After their tough MBT debut, Johnson is hoping that these players will stick together and continue training for future tournaments.

"It is in BANMI's and also the players' interest to work towards the next level of competitions, like the U17, U19, and open divisions," said the former CNMI Nationals member.

"Two players on our team—Christian Mizer and Joe Aguilar—will be will be stepping up to the U17 division. They were our big men in Palau and they know now what is expected of their skills. If they keep practicing, they will go far," Johnson said.

The assistant coach added he wished more players will show up in CNMI try outs and join the training pool.

"We had only seven players and obviously, we have more rooms. There are many kids, certainly more than seven, on this island that have the potential to be good basketball players. It is mind boggling and also disappointing to ask why it is so difficult to form a team for such a great tournament. So in future tournaments, I would like to see more of these young athletes step up and put in the effort it takes to become better athletes," Johnson said.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	54	35	.607	—
New York	52	35	.598	1
Tampa Bay	49	40	.551	5
Toronto	44	47	.484	11
Baltimore	36	51	.414	17

Central Division

Cleveland	47	41	.534	—
Detroit	48	43	.527	1/2
Chicago	44	47	.484	4 1/2
Minnesota	40	48	.455	7
Kansas City	37	53	.411	11

West Division

Texas	50	41	.549	—
Los Angeles	49	42	.538	1
Seattle	43	47	.478	6 1/2
Oakland	39	52	.429	11

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	56	34	.622	—
Atlanta	54	37	.593	2 1/2
New York	46	44	.511	10
Washington	45	46	.495	11 1/2
Florida	42	48	.467	14

Central Division

Milwaukee	48	43	.527	—
St. Louis	48	43	.527	—
Pittsburgh	46	43	.517	1
Cincinnati	45	46	.495	3
Chicago	37	54	.407	11
Houston	30	61	.330	18

West Division

San Francisco	51	40	.560	—
Arizona	49	42	.538	2
Colorado	43	47	.478	7 1/2
Los Angeles	40	51	.440	11
San Diego	40	51	.440	11

Yesterday's Games

N.Y. Yankees 5, Tampa Bay 4
Chicago White Sox 4, Minnesota 3
Toronto 5, Cleveland 4, 10 innings
Boston 4, Baltimore 0
Kansas City 13, Detroit 6
Texas 7, Oakland 6
L.A. Angels 9, Seattle 3
Atlanta 4, Philadelphia 1, 11 innings
L.A. Dodgers 1, San Diego 0
Chicago Cubs 6, Pittsburgh 3
Colorado 2, Washington 1
Cincinnati 8, Milwaukee 4, 10 innings
Florida 6, Houston 1
St. Louis 7, Arizona 6
San Francisco 3, N.Y. Mets 1

JOHN DEERE CLASSIC SCORES

SILVIS, Illinois (AP) — Scores Saturday from the John Deere Classic, a US PGA Tour event at the 7,268-yard, par-71 TPC Deere Run course:

Third Round

Steve Stricker	66-64-63	—193
Brendon de Jonge	66-66-63	—195
Chez Reavie	66-62-68	—196
Kyle Stanley	65-67-65	—197
Cameron Percy	66-67-67	—200
Mark Wilson	65-67-68	—200
Cameron Tringale	70-66-65	—201
Dean Wilson	69-65-67	—201
Charles Warren	67-68-67	—202
Aron Price	69-66-67	—202
Zach Johnson	66-69-67	—202
Nathan Green	69-64-69	—202
David Mathis	68-65-69	—202
Marco Dawson	68-69-66	—203
Will MacKenzie	67-70-66	—203
Brian Davis	70-66-67	—203
Todd Hamilton	70-66-67	—203
Woody Austin	69-67-67	—203
Scott Stallings	69-66-68	—203
Cameron Beckman	66-69-68	—203
Michael Letzig	70-65-68	—203
Davis Love III	64-70-69	—203
Lee Janzen	66-68-69	—203
Matt McQuillan	64-69-70	—203
John Mallinger	68-65-70	—203
Arjun Atwal	67-66-70	—203
Steve Marino	64-66-73	—203
Michael Thompson	71-66-67	—204
Brett Wetterich	69-68-67	—204
Bryce Molder	71-66-67	—204
Shane Bertsch	71-66-67	—204
Brian Gay	68-67-69	—204
Chris Couch	70-65-69	—204
D.A. Points	66-68-70	—204
Charles Howell III	66-68-70	—204
Kris Blanks	63-71-70	—204
Jim Herman	66-68-70	—204
Michael Putnam	70-68-67	—205
John Merrick	67-71-67	—205
Ben Martin	67-70-68	—205
Sunghoon Kang	72-65-68	—205
J.J. Henry	68-68-69	—205
Troy Merritt	68-68-69	—205
Andres Gonzales	68-68-69	—205
William McGirt	67-67-71	—205
Billy Mayfair	67-66-72	—205
Jason Bohn	72-66-68	—206
Briny Baird	68-70-68	—206
Scott Piercy	70-67-69	—206
Craig Bowden	67-70-69	—206
John Rollins	72-65-69	—206
Josh Teater	66-70-70	—206
Chad Campbell	67-69-70	—206
Heath Slocum	70-66-70	—206
Kirk Triplett	68-65-73	—206
Kent Jones	70-68-69	—207
Frank Lickliter II	68-70-69	—207
Tim Petrovic	69-69-69	—207
Chris Kirk	68-69-70	—207
Michael Sim	67-70-70	—207
David Hearn	67-69-71	—207
Joe Ogilvie	69-67-71	—207
Steven Bowditch	67-68-72	—207
Jhonattan Vegas	68-64-75	—207
Rod Pampling	69-69-70	—208
James Driscoll	71-67-70	—208
Troy Matteson	67-69-72	—208
Michael Connell	69-66-73	—208
Alex Prugh	69-68-72	—209
Duffy Waldorf	67-69-73	—209
Chris Stroud	69-64-76	—209
D.J. Trahan	67-70-74	—211
Jason Day	67-69-75	—211

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weekend Sports

Slow week for athletes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Action in the sports community slowed down last week with only basketball leagues and two off-island competitions making the headlines.

In the 2nd QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup Invitational League at the Garapan Basketball Court, Mobil notched back-to-back championships after sweeping Smart Cagers in their best-of-three title series. Mobil wrapped up the short series and defended its championship after pulling off an 87-85 win in Game 2.

Gyles Ruluked and Jun Estolas delivered the killer blows for Mobil in Game 2 with the former eventually taking home the Finals MVP award.

Over at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court, Blue Haus caging resumed after having a break for almost two weeks to give way to another league.

Making it to the win column at the resumption of action in the Blue Haus league were Wings Travel, Inchcape, Joeten Superstores, Sherwin Williams, Marianas Water, Fresco Saipan, and Mawati.

At the TSL Sports Complex, the first of the three-round robin competition in the 2011 BANMI Women's Summer Basketball League was completed last week with three teams tying for the lead.

Locked in a three-way logjam with similar 2-1 records are Mix-A-Lot, Aye Par Battayi, and Party Rockers. Party Rockers failed to sweep the first round when it bowed to Mix-A-Lot, 51-61, last Wednesday. Mix-A-Lot's lone defeat was at the hands of Aye Par Battayi, who then lost to Party Rockers. Lazy Buttsss completes the four-team cast and is winless in three games.

In off-island events, Northern Marianas Athletics sent Reylynn Sapong in Lille, France for the 2011 IAAF World Youth Championships and Mamiko Oshima-Berger in Queensland, Australia for the 2011 Gold Coast Airport Marathon.

Sapong clocked in at 14.25 seconds in the 100m run in the youth competition to duplicate her personal best time, while Oshima-Berger was among the more than 4,500 finishers in the 42.195-kilometer race after timing in at three hours, 53 minutes, and 30 seconds.

While Sapong and Oshima-Berger completed their off-island trips, the CNMI Major League All-Stars just started their journey last week when they went to Guam for the 2011 Asia Pacific Regional Tournament. The CNMI youth sluggers managed to make it to Guam after getting funding from private companies.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Players of Smart Cagers pose with their runner-up trophy after losing to Mobil in the QQ Cup finals last week.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Members of Mobil celebrate their championship win in the QQ Cup caging last week at the Garapan Basketball Court.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

The CNMI Major League All-Stars pose for a group photo during a break in their training session at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield.

▲ Mobil and Smart Cagers players battle for the rebound during Game 2 of their title series in the QQ Cup last week at the Garapan Basketball Court.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mix-A-Lot's Madeleine Alegre, left, dribbles toward the baseline against Party Rockers' Rachel Abrams during their game in the BANMI women's league last week at the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

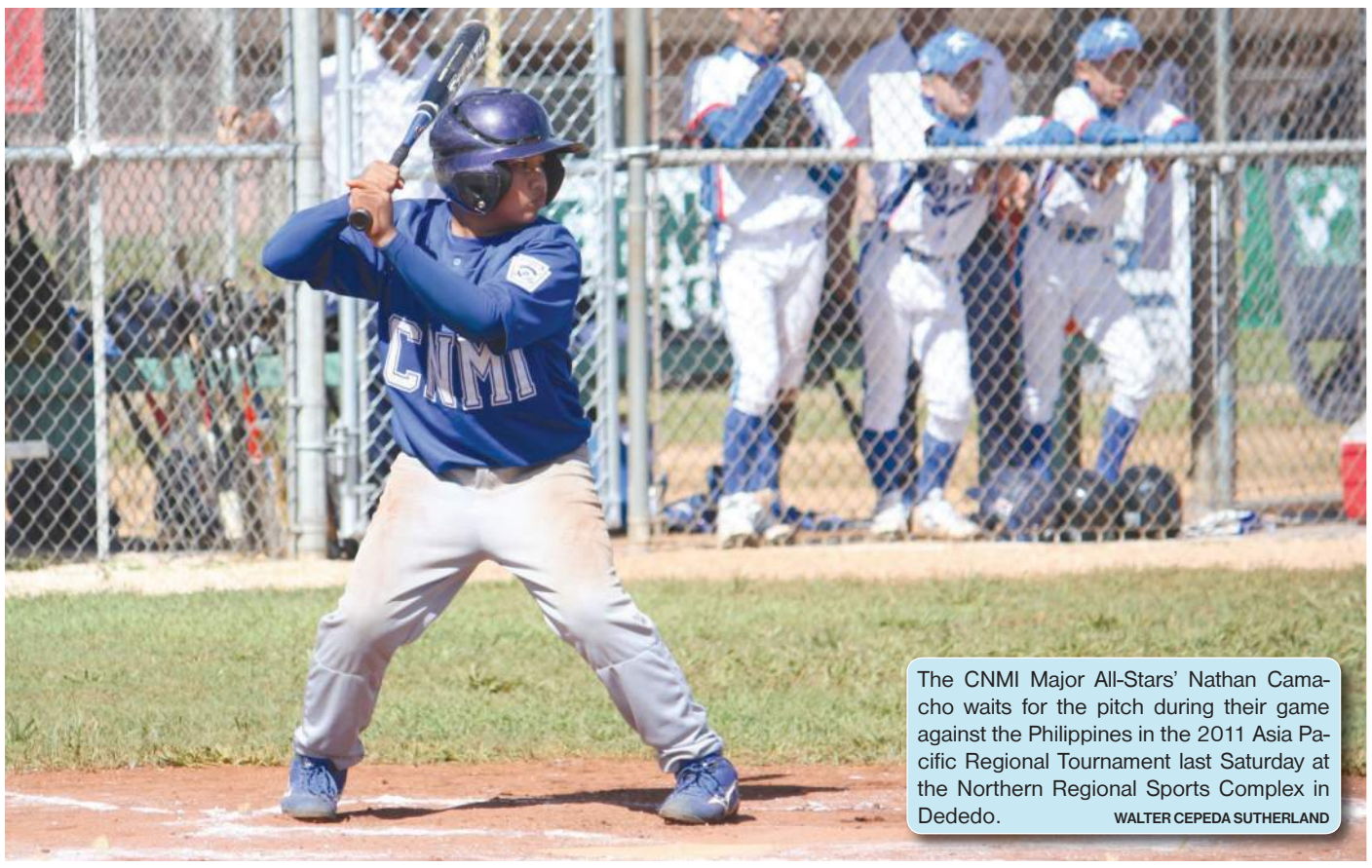
Mamiko Oshima-Berger, right, seen here posing with participants of last month's Salvation Army 5K Fun Run, competed in last week's 2011 Gold Coast Airport Marathon in Queensland, Australia.

► Fresco Saipan's Edwin Camacho, left, drives to the basket against Jacem Printing's Fred Litulumar during their game in the Blue Haus caging at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court last week.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Tribune
Sports

CNMI splits games in ASPAC



The CNMI Major All-Stars' Nathan Camacho waits for the pitch during their game against the Philippines in the 2011 Asia Pacific Regional Tournament last Saturday at the Northern Regional Sports Complex in Dededo. WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

GUAM—It was an up and down start for the CNMI Major All-Stars, as they split their first two games in the 2011 Asia Pacific Regional Tournament at the Northern Regional Sports Complex in Dededo.

The CNMI shut out the Philippines in five innings in Saturday's opener, 10-0, but failed to notch back-to-back wins when it fell to Korea yesterday, 0-8.

Rokie Tenorio and Nathan Camacho led the CNMI's offense in the first two games. Tenorio went 3-for-5 with an RBI, two runs, and a base on balls, while Camacho hit 3-for-4 with two RBIs and one homer.

The Commonwealth is in Pool B, which has Korea and Guam tied for the lead with similar 1-0 records. Hong Kong holds a 1-1 mark, while the Philippines has a 0-2 card.

Guam defeated Hong Kong, 4-2, on Saturday, but the latter bounced back and edged the Philippines yesterday, 6-5. Only the Top 2 teams in each pool will advance to the semifinals on Thursday. The CNMI will face Hong Kong today in a must-win match at 9am.

In Pool A, Taiwan, Thailand, and Singapore are undefeated, while Australia, Indonesia, and New Zealand are at the bottom half of the group.

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MBT stint helps CNMI develop players

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Assistant coach Quincy Johnson believed the CNMI accomplished something in the 2011 Micronesian Basketball Tournament despite failing to make it to the medal podium in last month's competition in Palau.

He said the Commonwealth managed to find seven dedicated players, exposed them to a tough competition, and prepare them for an even harder tournament in the future.

"The tournament in Palau was not about winning or losing. It was about developing young athletes and introducing them to a big tournament. It helped them understand what kind of pressure they would

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI's Christian Mizer, second from left, poses with fellow top players during the awards ceremony for the 2011 Micronesian Basketball Tournament in Palau last month.

By ZOE JEWELL
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Zoe Jewell is a member of the CNMI national women's soccer team.

Women's World Cup ushers new era

GERMANY—The Women's World Cup began for the United States in Dresden, Germany, the site of their opening match against North Korea. The stadium was very energetic and lively. The Dresden community put on a good show, with games and activities outside for the kids. There were also quite a few American supporters, which was nice to see. The first half of the game was extremely nerve-wracking, as North Korea had several excellent opportunities to

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AP
Abby Wambach, left, of the U.S. and Sweden's Sara Larsson in action during their pool play game in Sinsheim, Germany last week.

CNMI strikers to get enough playing time in Taipei

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

All members of the 18-player CNMI U15 National Team are expected to get adequate playing time in the 2011 East Asian Football Federation U15 Youth Tournament after a modification in the substitution rules in the Taipei competition.

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association general secretary Ed Salas said in the EAFF tournament next week, organizers will now allow seven substitutions instead of the usual three subs.

"When we competed in the same tournament in Guam last year, though we want to give every player good exposure, we can't because we were allowed to have only three substitutions. It's a good thing that EAFF changed the rules and now our players will get more playing times and this will help them a lot. Everybody gets to play and experience competing against the five other teams in Taipei," Salas said during the NMASA meeting at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium Thursday night.

The tournament in Taipei, Taiwan will run from July 18 to 24 and NMIFA is hoping for a better performance from the U15 team this time after failing to score a single goal in its debut in Guam last year.

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Andrew Johnson, left, stops the ball while his teammates look on during the CNMI U15 Team's dribbling drills demonstration at the Liberation Day Parade. HAIDEE EUGENIO